



Daily Report

East Asia

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Daily Report

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FBIS-EAS-95-085

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Japan

Negotiators Report Progress in Auto Talks

OW0305064395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT
3 May 95

[By Kohei Murayama]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vancouver, May 2 KYODO—U.S. and Japanese top negotiators saw progress in crucial auto trade talks Tuesday [2 May], but they apparently left the thorniest issue of a "voluntary" plan for their ministers to decide politically Wednesday.

After a round of informal and plenary sessions throughout the day, both U.S. and Japanese negotiators told reporters that the meetings were "constructive" and "some progress" was made although gaps still remained.

Their comments were in sharp contrast to tough remarks hinting at an imminent trade war after a previous meeting in Washington last March.

The overall tone suggested that the vice ministerial negotiators are set for a breakthrough in the two major technical issues—wider foreign access to Japanese car dealerships and deregulation of the market for replacement car parts.

But the thorniest issue of a U.S. demand for renewing "voluntary" parts purchasing plans by Japanese automakers remains in the hands of U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Kantor and Hashimoto will meet in Vancouver before joining their Canadian and European Union counterparts for a three-day "quad" meeting starting Wednesday in the nearby ski resort town of Whistler.

"The differences have narrowed from the previous meeting," Japan's top negotiator from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) told a press briefing after the final evening plenary session.

"I think the basis is set" for reaching an agreement, added Yoshihiro Sakamoto, MITI's vice minister for international affairs.

A U.S. official told reporters that there "is a long way to go" on Japan's deregulation although "some progress" was seen.

But Japanese Vice Transport Minister for International Affairs Masahide Ochi told reporters that he sees hope as Japan has agreed to "put on the roundtable" the demand which the U.S. made in March talks and Japan had rejected to discuss.

Emerging from the plenary session, U.S. Commerce Undersecretary for International Trade Jeffrey Garten told reporters that the atmosphere was "very good," and U.S. Trade Representative General Counsel Ira Shapiro said it was "very constructive."

But the two top U.S. negotiators declined to comment otherwise ahead of the Kantor and Hashimoto meeting.

On the voluntary plans, Sakamoto said that his stance "remains unchanged" referring to his comments in March that the two parties are ready to "shake hands" if the U.S. drops its demand for renewing the 1992 voluntary plans that expired this March.

"We have not discussed" the voluntary plans in the plenary session, Sakamoto insisted, while refusing to comment on whether the U.S. brought the matter up in informal talks.

But he said that he is well aware through news reports from Washington that Kantor intends to bring up voluntary plans.

Last week, Hashimoto told reporters that if the U.S. "keeps sticking to the idea, I am sorry to say that the auto talks are doomed to fail."

Sakamoto said the U.S. "did not absolutely" threaten the Japanese side with retaliatory actions. Instead, he quoted the U.S. negotiators as saying they "hope to reach an agreement through negotiations."

But Washington policy-makers are bracing themselves for results of the Kantor-Hashimoto talks before deciding whether to take punitive actions against Japan.

The National Economic Council (NEC) is slated to hold a meeting this weekend to assess the talks in Canada, and NEC head Laura Tyson said, "if they do not (succeed), we have to consider other options available to us."

U.S. officials have indicated the other options as issuing a list of items subject to punitive tariffs under a Section 301 probe initiated last year into Japan's replacement parts market.

U.S. Seeks Changes in Auto Inspection System

OW0305013195 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 May 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese auto inspection system is becoming a target of shakeups. As part of its deregulation measures, the government recently decided to streamline the auto inspection system. However, the United States is calling for further deregulation at the Japan-U.S. framework economic talks. At the Japan-U.S. auto negotiations, which restarted on 1 May, the United States insisted the Japanese auto inspection system was a barrier to imports of U.S.-made auto parts. Washington is now escalating its demand that Japan make a fundamental review of its unique auto inspection system, the practice of choosing "government-approved auto repair shops," and conducting "disassembling and servicing inspection" (bunkai seibi kensa). In response, Japanese negotiators have cited safety in stressing the need to retain the current inspection system.

Dissatisfaction With Government-Approved Repair Shops

The U.S. negotiators said: "Japan should review its definition of disassembling and servicing inspection. We also want Japan to ease its requirements for inspections on structural change too."

The Japanese negotiators replied: "It is not true that the market share of foreign-made auto parts in Japan is low because of the government regulation. Regulations are applied on only 3.6 percent of all repair parts. We are not treating foreign-made and domestically produced auto parts differently." This is part of the debate at the framework talks.

At the Japan-U.S. negotiations, the United States is turning the force of its argument toward general auto inspections, rather than the "auto inspection (continuous inspection)," which is normally required once in two years. The "continuous inspection" [keizoku kensa] is well-known among car owners. However, there are other inspections which are required by law, including the "disassembling and servicing inspection"—required when brakes, engine pistons, and other key parts involved in vehicle safety are repaired or replaced—and an "inspection on structural change," which is mandatory when the length or height of a vehicle is changed.

The auto inspection system is supported by "government-approved auto repair shops." These privileged in being exempted from needing government confirmation of their disassembling and servicing inspections. The United States is dissatisfied with the system, saying government-approved repair shops do not use U.S.-made auto parts.

Auto Repair Shops Feel Sense of Crisis

"Changes will be made to the auto inspection system." After receiving requests from many organizations, including a committee studying deregulation, the Ministry of Transport [MOT] as recently as 1994 approved deregulation measures designed mainly to simplify regular inspections. The MOT distributed 20,000 copies of a multi-colored pamphlet for car owners publicizing the fundamental revisions to the Road Vehicles Act.

There are four key points to deregulation measures to simplify the auto inspection system, which will take effect in July this year. They are: 1) abolition of the six-month inspection; 2) reduction by half of the number of items required under the 24-month inspection; 3) abolition of "pre- and post-inspection check"; and 4) extending to two years the validity of an inspection sticker on cars 11 years or more old.

According to calculations made by the MOT, the cost of a regular inspection for a two-year inspection sticker for small passenger cars (those with engine capacity from 1,400 to 1,800 cc) will be reduced by 42,000 yen, or from 119,000 yen to 75,000 yen. Since the pre-inspection

check will be eliminated in principle, it will be easier for car owners to have their cars inspected.

However, auto repair shops feel a sense of crisis because the United States has been making demands one after another, asking Japan to ease the inspection system. Shinya Izumi, former MOT official and a New Frontier Party member of the House Councilors, emphatically said: "I am against deregulation which is linked to reducing sales for auto repair shops. Shops that would not otherwise go bankrupt will be forced out of business if the inspection procedures are eased in the wake of the Japan-U.S. negotiations."

Some estimate the streamlining measures, which will take effect in July, will cost auto repair shops jointly about 500 billion yen a year.

MOT Minister Shizuka Kamei expressed his opposition to the U.S. demand, saying: "From the viewpoint of traffic safety, I just cannot accept a compromise designed to revise the auto inspection system."

MOT Has Many Auto Inspectors

Some people believe the MOT opposes making any further deregulation because it relies heavily on the auto inspection system. More than 1,000 auto inspectors are members of the MOT. In addition, retired MOT officials find their second career at organizations, composed of auto repair industries. In this way, the MOT has close relations with auto repair circles. It is true that bureaucrats and the private sector are trying to protect their organizations in wanting to maintain the current auto inspection system.

It is said the MOT will further ease the auto inspection system and the system for choosing designated inspection facilities by partially accepting U.S. demands at the bilateral auto talks. Should car owners take responsibility for keeping their cars in good condition? How far should the government regulations go? These are the issues over which the Japanese and U.S. Governments differ most.

MITI Considers Reaction to U.S. Sanctions

OW0205143595 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 May 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] is considering announcing a list of countermeasures if the United States releases a list of sanctions against Japan based on the Super 301 provision of the U.S. Omnibus Trade Act (on retaliatory actions against trade partners' unfair practices), as threatened during the bilateral economic framework talks on autos and auto parts. The Japanese Government has decided to file a claim with the World Trade Organization (WTO) when the U.S. Government releases the list. The main reason for its decision is that Japan wants to prevent the United States from imposing sanctions

until the WTO reaches a decision. If the U.S. Government does not drop its threat at the ministerial negotiations of MITI Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Mickey Kantor to be held in Canada on 3 May, Japan is likely to inform the United States of its intention to release the countermeasures list.

The U.S. Government aims to announce the sanction list against Japan by the end of May in case the upcoming minister-level talks in Canada result in a rupture. The scale of sanctions will be about \$2 billion, and tariffs on target items will be sharply raised. In response, the Japanese Government will break off the automobile talks immediately after the U.S. announcement of the sanction list. In addition, Japan will file a suit with the WTO, claiming the U.S. unilateral measures run counter to WTO rules. Usually, a trial in the WTO takes nearly two years. The government will ask the WTO to handle its claim as an "urgent matter," whose trial period can be shortened to five months. However, if the United States raises tariffs before the WTO comes to a conclusion, Japanese companies concerned will suffer great damage. Therefore, by revealing that Japan is considering countermeasures, the Japanese Government aims to pressure the United States not to impose sanctions.

However, if Japan actually takes countermeasures, it would result in a battle of sanctions between the two countries. In view of such a possibility, Japan will only announce the list for the time being, and will cautiously study what kind of steps it should take in the future while observing the U.S. attitude.

The list, which MITI is preparing, is likely to consist of two parts—steps to be taken before the WTO reaches a decision and those to be implemented after a judgment is made. Until the WTO comes to a decision, Japan will take countermeasures only on those items not covered by WTO agreements so that Japan will not violate WTO rules. The following plans are now under discussion: to raise Japan's effective tariffs to the level promised by WTO rules and to exclude U.S. companies from biddings for government procurement whose amount is less than the minimum amount stipulated by WTO accords.

If the WTO finds, as MITI expects, that the United States is in violation of its rules, Japan will increase the tariffs as permitted by WTO regulations. Of imported U.S. products, MITI will choose those that have a large market share in Japan as subjects for a hike so that Japan's sanctions will be imposed on the same scale as that of the United States.

Tamazawa, Perry Discuss Defense Issues

*OW0305033995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0248 GMT
3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, May 2 KYODO—Japanese Defense Agency Chief Tokuichiro Tamazawa, citing budgetary constraints, on Tuesday [2 May]

rejected a U.S. request to pay more for U.S. troops stationed in Japan, agency officials said.

"We cannot win the understanding of the people and the Diet for continuing to increase spending" for the U.S. soldiers stationed in Japan, Tamazawa told U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry in a meeting at the Pentagon.

However, Tamazawa was forthcoming about Perry's proposal for an early conclusion of the acquisition and cross-servicing agreement to facilitate fuel and transportation duty swaps between the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and the U.S. military, the officials said.

During the 1996 regular Diet session, the Defense Agency plans to introduce legislation to revise the SDF law and implement the agreement, agency sources said.

The sources said the accord, for example, would allow the Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force to provide U.S. warships with fuel.

Tamazawa also expressed the hope that the Japan-U.S. mutual security arrangements would further promote bilateral defense cooperation and contribute to peace and stability in Asia and around the world, the agency officials said.

He and Perry agreed to hold a "two plus two" dialogue with the Japanese Foreign Minister and the U.S. secretary of state as early as September, the officials said.

Tamazawa also explained to Perry Japan's plans to dispatch SDF personnel to the Israeli-held Golan Heights, although some lawmakers of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], one of three parties in Japan's ruling coalition, are opposed to such engagements in the Middle East.

The two defense chiefs confirmed the tripartite alliance among Japan, the U.S. and South Korea in dealing with North Korea's nuclear program.

Perry said Pyongyang is trying to divide the close bond between Washington and Seoul, the Japanese officials said.

As for a potential reduction in the U.S. military presence on Okinawa, Tamazawa told Perry that a list of alternative sites has been narrowed for the Naha Military Port and a paratrooper training ground at Yomitan Airfield.

Japanese and U.S. officials have declined to discuss the alternative sites but Tamazawa was understood to have advanced proposals to build a port in the city of Urasoe and relocate the paratrooper training ground to the U.S. Camp Hansen.

At a news conference after his talks with Perry, Tamazawa said he will attend a U.S. Government ceremony set for Sept. 2 in Hawaii marking the end of the Pacific war and the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

Okinawa Daily Critiques Review of Security Pact*OW0305051495 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese
2 May 95 Morning Edition p 5*

[Editorial: "Review Runs Counter to Okinawans' Expectations—Redefinition of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty Goes Against the Times"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 April, the Defense Agency [DA] disclosed details of its proposed review (redefinition) of the Japan-U.S. security pact. The treaty notes the need for the United States as a deterrence to maintain security in both countries and stresses the importance of bilateral relations. The recent review by the DA is based on the conventional "definition" of the role of the treaty. Yet, the agency proposes to give full and active support to the U.S. strategy beyond bilateral security arrangements and characterizes the Japan-U.S. security pact as an "indispensable framework" for Japan to support U.S. activities to maintain world and Asian stability. This represents the major change in Japan's interpretation of the pact.

DA Director General Tokuichiro Tamazawa left for Washington on 1 May for talks with his U.S. counterpart on security issues. At the scheduled meeting, Tamazawa will present Japan's new interpretation of the bilateral security treaty. One of major objectives of his trip to the United States is to conclude an "acquisition and cross-servicing agreement (ACSA)," which allows the two countries to provide each other with fuel, equipment, and transport services. This and the review of the security pact worry us. The Cold War between the East and West has ended, and the international community is now groping for a new world order. In such a situation, the United States, the largest military power in the world, and Japan, an economic giant, are seeking to come closer or "unite" with each other over the Pacific Ocean. What do other countries, in particular Asian nations, think of such a move?

There were expectations that Okinawa's "three base-related issues" would be solved during Tamazawa's visit to Washington. However, ignoring such expectations, the Governments of Japan and the United States have tried to give more importance to the bilateral security pact and stabilize the presence of the U.S. Forces in Okinawa, characterizing it as a linchpin of the pact. It can be said that such an act is apparent treachery to Okinawans.

Security Pact May Play a Role as Channel Between U.S., Asia

In its redefinition of the pact, the DA notes: "There is no change in the fundamental role of the security pact, that is, if an armed attack is made against our nation, Japan and the United States will cooperate in foiling it." However, it adds: "Under the current situation in which there is no immediate military threat to Japan, it is necessary to focus on a new role for the Japan-U.S.

security system to create stable security environments." In this way, the agency stresses the importance of strengthening the bilateral security system, adding new "value" to the security treaty, and expanding the role of the pact.

It describes Japan-U.S. security arrangements as being important to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear arms, in the post-Cold War era. What worries us is the move to strengthen the Japan-U.S. security system to ensure the presence of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region. There is an emerging possibility that despite its original role of preserving security in Japan and the United States, the Japan-U.S. security treaty may play a role as a "channel" through which the United States can extend its strategy to Asia.

On 1 March, the White House released the 1995 version of an annual report indicating President Bill Clinton's comprehensive foreign policy. In reference to the East Asia-Pacific region, the report proposed to give priority to maintaining regional security over economic and democratization issues, primarily through operations of the U.S. Forces stationed in Japan and South Korea.

Earlier, on 27 February, the Pentagon submitted a report titled "U.S. Security Strategy for the East Asia-Pacific Region" to Congress. This report also characterizes the security alliance with Japan as a "linchpin" of U.S. commitment to deter threats to and maintain peace and security in the region. Concerning the role of the U.S. Forces in Japan, the report says: "The U.S. Forces are deployed in Japan not only to defend the nation, but also to preserve peace in the entire Far East." It then stresses that the United States will continue to station a Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa, will also continue to deploy forward an aircraft carrier battle group and an amphibious ready group, and will maintain more than one wing of Air force combat aircraft in Japan.

When the report was issued, promoting weapons-technology sharing and establishing a system for cooperation in UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) were proposed as specific areas of security cooperation between Japan and the United States. The recent moves to review the role of the Japan-U.S. security pact appear to be a joint effort by Japan and the United States to translate these measures into reality.

Asia Practices Preventive Diplomacy

There is no doubt that the review and new interpretation of the Japan-U.S. security treaty has been made to comply with proposals in the "U.S. Security Strategy for the East Asia-Pacific Region" report, which was compiled by U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph Nye (in charge of international security). Nye is a major force behind moves to review the role of the security pact. He has also called for changing the U.S. policy of giving great importance to settling trade friction with Japan, pointing out its negative effects on the security alliance

with Japan. In the report, Nye proposed that the United States should maintain a force structure that requires approximately 100,000 personnel. The Japanese Foreign Ministry and the DA welcomed this report, saying: "The security concepts shown in the report are consistent with ours."

It would not be too much to say that the Governments of Japan and the United States again have not taken into account Okinawa's call for reducing, consolidating, or removing U.S. bases here, but just use the issue as a tool for political bargaining.

Things are different now from during the Cold War era when the United States and the former Soviet Union confronted each other while making mutual nuclear threats. The United States has promoted relations with China and the DPRK (North Korea) through diplomatic channels. It has also normalized ties with Vietnam, a former enemy in Asia. Vietnam has begun its role as a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Japan and the United States have joined the "ASEAN regional forum," the first multilateral security council in Asia. The present-day Asia tries to deter regional conflicts by promoting "preventive diplomacy." Will this attempt make the Japan-U.S. security pact's "military alliance"-like nature more conspicuous? China has increased its military spending. This is the move that runs counter to the current of the times. If the United States does the same as China, what it asserts will not be convincing. This opinion is particularly strong in Okinawa.

MOFA Questions U.S. Sanctions Against Iran

OW0305065795 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese
2 May 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA], the office involved in decisionmaking on the question of resuming yen-based loans to Iran is unable to hide its bewilderment about U.S. President Clinton's declaration of all-out economic sanctions against that country. The thinking within MOFA has been that it should decide on the resumption of the loans once the major nations' summit meeting (Halifax summit) in June is over, while watching the direction of policy the United States pursues on Iran. Now that President Clinton has made it clear that he will ask other nations to cooperate in enforcing the sanctions, it has become inevitable for Japan to abandon that "strategy."

Asked to comment on the U.S. President's declaration, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi was cautious with his remarks in a 1 May news conference, saying: "I think it is basically an extension of that country's past policy on Iran." But within MOFA now there is growing pessimism about the question of loans, with officials saying "With this, the possibility of gaining the understanding of the United States on resuming the yen loans has become slim. Condition are becoming even tougher than before."

Even though the U.S. administration regards Iran as a "terrorism supporting country," and objects to providing assistance to it, MOFA basically believes, "Providing economic support to moderates in Iran will help stabilize that country and will contribute to bringing stability to all of the Gulf coastal areas." As long as there are no Iran-involved incidents of terrorism reported before the summit, the ministry thought it should be possible for it to decide on resuming the loans. Regarding the U.S. "policy of isolating Iran," there have been many questions and reactions not only from Japan, but also from other countries. Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev in a speech in Washington in late April criticized the United States for asking Russia to suspend its plan to supply a nuclear reactor to Iran. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of China, which has a similar plan, rebuffed the U.S. "call for suspension" of that country's plan, saying such a demand "goes beyond the norms of international relations."

In the ministry, there are now those who insist Japan should stick by its position, given the reactions of other countries, but there are also those who insist Japan should give priority consideration to the position of the United States. It looks like the work of consolidating ministry officials' views to arrive at a "decision" on the question—in wake of the toughened U.S. Government stand—is not going to be easy.

Industry 'Perplexed' by U.S. Embargo on Iran

OW0305121595 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese
2 May 95 Morning Edition p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Japanese industrial circles are perplexed over the U.S. Government's 30 April announcement of the decision to ban dealings between Iran and American companies and their subsidiaries. Japanese trading houses and plant construction companies are having difficulties in determining how far they should follow the U.S. decision. If the Japanese Government takes strong actions against Iran, that would make their business, and even the collection of credits, difficult. Oil distributors and electric power suppliers are paying close attention to the development of U.S. sanctions, as even a minor reduction of Iranian crude supply can raise the costs of Japan's energy supply.

Idemitsu Kosan Co. and Showa Shell Sekiyu K.K. are known as Japan's large-lot purchasers of Iranian crude oil. While they procure 50,000 to 100,000 barrels daily from Iran, they will not be subject to the U.S. embargo, as almost all Japanese oil companies purchase Iranian crude under direct contracts with Iran or through Japanese trading houses. The U.S. embargo will affect a few companies including Nippon Petroleum Refining Co., in which Caltex Petroleum has a 50 percent equity stake, but the impact on these firms will be limited because the volume of their purchases of Iranian crude is not significant.

Yet, suspension of the supply of Iranian crude from American firms may seriously hit Japan. Exxon, Texaco,

and other major international oil companies have been daily exporting 600,000 barrels (or \$4 billion per year) of Iranian crude oil to the third countries through their overseas subsidiaries. It is believed that they will increase spot-buying of crude oil from Oman, Abu Dhabi, Dubayy, and the North Sea when the U.S. embargo takes effect.

Prices of Middle Eastern crude oil for Japanese buyers are linked to spot prices at Dubayy and Oman. American buyers' moves in the markets may raise procurement costs for Japanese oil companies. European and Asian oil companies which have secured Iranian crude from American companies are also likely to seek other sources.

Meanwhile, Japanese plant constructors currently have only one project in Iran. The project is being delayed due to financial difficulties in Iran. The constructors are unhappy about the U.S. embargo, as "it may worsen Iran's foreign exchange shortage, and we would have difficulties in collecting credits and the conclusion of new contracts."

Tokyo's Decision Not To Join EAEC Viewed

OW0205130295 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 29 Apr-6 May 95 p 15

[Article by Yoji Fukuyama, from the "Business Inside" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Has Japan's slighting of Asia in its foreign relations gone to this extent?

Japan has decided not to participate in the EAEC (East Asia Economic Conference) which ASEAN (Association of South East Asia Nations) has been promoting. Both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] explain that "As a government, we have not yet decided whether or not to join," but the predominant view inside the government is that "ASEAN does not believe in the viability of an EAEC without Japanese participation. Therefore, the concept itself will crumble."

An attempt was made at one time to make the EAEC a part of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum]. This was because the United States was totally against the idea, claiming that "it is a move to divide the Pacific Ocean." But ASEAN, which was adamant about strengthening the Asian voice, proposed last fall to hold an economic ministers conference with representatives from its own six member countries plus Japan, China, and South Korea. The meeting was to be held in late April of this year in Thailand. China quickly expressed its intention to participate, so the inclination to establish an EAEC was revived.

According to a government source, the participation issue was intensely debated within the government, but in the end, out of consideration for U.S. resistance, the government indicated its intention not to participate,

using the indirect expression that "unless Australia and New Zealand are included, Japan will not participate."

An responsible official revealed the following.

"Some argued strongly that Japan should display leadership in establishing the EAEC, indicating a major shift in our foreign policy. But in light of the pending questions immediately facing us, such as the high yen issue and the U.S.-Japan framework talks, we could not ignore the State Department's desires."

In other words, the great economic bloc concept which Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir has been advocating for five years seems to be vanishing out of deference to Japan's foreign relations, which are subservient to the United States.

Naturally, a strong reaction against Japan is expected. A high-ranking official who advocates placing greater weight on Asia is still unhappy, saying that "the relationship with the ASEAN countries will be in discord, and Prime Minister Mahathir may not attend the APEC meeting in Osaka this fall. There is no question about the fact that we have lost an important diplomatic card." Although it was out of consideration for the United States, the price we have had to pay seems high.

BOT Head on Steps To Deal With Strong Yen

OW0205132195 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 May 95 Morning Edition p 9

[Article by Toyoo Gyoten, chairman of Bank of Tokyo [BOT]: "How to Deal With Yen Appreciation: Steps Must Be Taken To Assure the Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the day before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) finance ministers' conference was held in Bali, an APEC meeting of private sector bankers was also held in Bali. This was an initiative taken this time to allow for private sector discussions on the financial and capital markets in the APEC region.

Following the recent controversy over cholera on the island of Bali, the number of Japanese tourists diminished, and middle-aged and older European visitors dominated the tourist scene. They lounge around under the coconut trees or walk around the beaches displaying their huge bellies wrapped in colorful bathing suits.

A news conference was held after the private sector meeting. Surprisingly, questions from the local reporters focused on the yen's appreciation. They talked about "endaka" [yen appreciation] with an Indonesian accent, and the Americans present were at a loss about what was going on.

This was the first time yen appreciation has become such a hot topic in Asia. This shows that the yen has become that important in Asia.

However, I think that recent discussions on the yen hike in Japan have been quite misleading.

First, that the long-term appreciation of the yen, which has been a continuous trend since the 1970's, and the rapid yen hike since the beginning of 1995 should be treated separately has not been made clear.

Basically, yen appreciation is bound to happen, and is inevitable as long as there is a huge current account imbalance between Japan and the United States and as long as the inflation rate in Japan is lower than that in the United States.

Furthermore, if the yen hike leads directly to a reduction in production costs in Japan, this should be advantageous for the Japanese economy. Unfortunately, such price movements do not occur in Japan. As a result, a strong yen exposes the incongruities between the open exporting sectors and the closed importing sectors, creating a major domestic problem.

In comparison, the recent rapid yen hike is different in nature. Participants in the foreign exchange market have all predicted that while Japan has shown a phobia for yen appreciation, it will not and cannot take policies to assure the market. On top of this, the United States has not shown any strong aversion toward the depreciation of the dollar. The market, therefore, concludes that the yen will go up. This, in turn, leads to massive yen buying. In addition, certain monetary authorities have also resorted to selling dollars for fear of the depreciation of their dollar assets. As a result, the yen exchange rate has reached a level well above its purchasing power parity. A currency is nothing but a commodity on the market. Its value (exchange rate) is determined by the supply-demand relationship. The question is: What are the factors that affect the supply-demand balance?

The market never moves irrationally. On the contrary, it moves according to simple rules. The important thing is how the national government, private enterprises, and individuals adapt to market principles based on their respective interests. That portion of yen appreciation resulting from abnormalities in the Japanese economy will certainly lead to changes in the Japanese industrial structure.

From the corporate viewpoint, this means restructuring rather than hollowing out. Recently, an expression frequently uttered by the industrial sectors is that "companies move overseas without any prior warning." What this really means is that moving overseas is restructuring that cannot be done at home, and this is an inevitable choice that businesses must make to survive.

When businesses move away for restructuring, what they leave behind are employment problems and reduced tax revenues. People sometimes talk about the yen hike as if it is only a problem for businesses. More than anything else, this is a serious problem for the national government and Japanese individuals.

As seen in the United States in the beginning of the 1990's, microeconomic rationalization will also have its macroeconomic impact, at least during the transition period. The government must think about this seriously.

Yen appreciation and restructuring represent the quiet forces of the market at work. The best way to cope with this is to change the market while conforming with market principles. If policies are able to assure the market, there will not be any speculation.

I believe that creativity in business management and diligence remain viable forces in Japan. If so, the proper way to deal with the yen hike is to look into everything preventing these forces from playing their role and remove all these obstacles.

Tokyo Reveals Plan To Boost Foreign Investment

OW0305012895 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 May 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has disclosed the outline of a package of measures to promote foreign investment in Japan aimed at easing the rise of the yen and stimulating the economy. The seven-point package includes preferential taxation, loans, and deregulation. In consideration of demands by the United States, preferential treatment will be reinforced for department stores, supermarkets, management consultants, and other service and retail sectors. Details of the package are expected to be formally announced in late May as a statement of the government's inward investment panel (chaired by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama).

Foreign companies' investments in Japan have slumped since fiscal 1992 due to the recession and the yen rate increase. The government sees a greater influx of foreign business operating in Japan as a means of increasing imports and expansion of the domestic market. The investment promotion package was, therefore, pledged in the government's yen-curbing package announced on 14 April.

Preferential taxation and financing for foreign companies are presently regulated by the Imports and Inward Investments Law. The law will be expanded to offer a longer carry-over period on losses and a guarantee against losses to larger range of businesses. At present, preferential treatment for foreign firms is limited to those whose parent companies engaged in manufacturing industries. But by loosening such restrictions, the government hopes to attract a greater number of foreign companies in the wholesale, retail, and service sectors.

The maximum period to carry over losses is normally five years, but the government intends to allow 10 years as an exception for incoming foreign companies. The areas covered by the investment law are being expanded because almost 50 percent of foreign companies setting up business in Japan are nonmanufacturers. The government believes the expansion of the preferential treatment will encourage the advance of foreign service industries into Japan. The American toy retail chain

Toys "R" Us is successfully doing business in Japan, and the investment promotion package is expected to attract more American retailers.

The Imports and Inward Investments Law will expire in May 1996, but the government is planning an extension and reinforcement of it. The Japan Development Bank's loan programs will be improved so larger numbers of foreign companies can receive loans.

Deregulation measures will include reducing the number of industries in which foreign companies are required to report to the government before they set up operations. The government has already decided to exclude the mining industry from the restrictions. Relaxation of regulations controlling foreign investments is now under study by the OECD, and Japan will review such regulations in line with multinational discussions at the OECD. The Fair Trade Commission will simplify paperwork procedures for joint ventures and other international contracts.

The government will also study the possibility of reinforcing the functions of the Office of the Trade Ombudsman (OTO) and publicizing such business-oriented information as available manpower and cross-shareholdings. Furthermore, it will suggested to the business sector to hold investment promotion seminars intended for foreign companies.

Tax Commission Considering Corporate Tax Cut

OW0305020795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0152 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 3 KYODO—The government's Tax Commission will look into the possibility of reducing the corporate tax rates in the wake of tough times with the strong yen, an economic daily reported Wednesday [3 May].

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said the commission will start the discussion May 12, and a reduction of about 2.5 percentage points in corporate tax will be the center of attention.

The basic rate of corporate tax collected by the central government currently stands at 37.5 percent.

A reduction in corporate residential tax and corporate operation tax, both collected by local governments, will also be discussed, the paper said.

It said the commission, an advisory panel to the prime minister, believes the tax burden on Japanese corporations is relatively high compared with other major industrialized nations and other Asian countries.

Given the yen's surge against the dollar that is posing fears of "hollowing out" in industries, the panel decided to start discussions on the issue, the paper said.

While considering slashing the current tax rates, the panel will also look at tightening taxes on corporations

that claim losses to evade paying taxes, in order to maintain fairness in tax burden, it added.

The tax revisions would be implemented as early as Fiscal 1997 that starts April 1 of that year, the paper said.

Mazda, Nissan To Use ROK-Made Auto Parts

OW0305041295 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Mazda Motor Corporation is to join its South Korean partner Kia Motors Corporation in procuring South Korean-made auto parts, and Nissan Diesel Motor Co. plans to cooperate with Samsung Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries for the same reason. In an effort to improve the price competitiveness of Japanese cars, which has recently been weakened because of the yen's appreciation, they aim to cut procurement costs through large-scale joint purchases. Mazda plans to use South Korean-made pressed parts for commercial vehicles as early as next year. Nissan Diesel will change the dashboard parts used in some large trucks to South Korean-made ones. The shift to South Korean products will provide a boost to South Korean auto industry, although the "hollowing out of subcontractors" is likely to accelerate in Japan.

Mazda is a capital partner of Kia. They produce several common cars, such as the commercial vehicles known on the Japanese market as "Titan" and "Bongo," and the passenger cars known as "Capera" and "Festiva." Although Kia produces several older models, the two companies use a lot of the same parts. Mazda plans to phase in the following South Korean parts: Pressed and cast parts for suspension equipment, pressed parts used on the inside of car bodies, and engine parts.

Mazda will provide technical support to South Korean auto parts makers, and will, with Kia, jointly buy South Korean-made auto parts. As a first step, Mazda will import parts for commercial vehicles through Kia, or its partners, as early as 1996. This is likely to involve tens of millions yen. Ultimately, though, Mazda is believed to plan parts purchases which will be worth hundreds of millions or even billions of yen a year. It will be a great business opportunity for South Korean auto parts manufacturers to continuously sell their products to Japan's big market.

Meanwhile, Nissan will import, as early as 1996, resin parts used in dashboards, which are made by its technical partner Samsung and Samsung's affiliates. As the two companies use the same parts to produce the large "Big Sam" truck with its 10-ton loading capacity, they can use Samsung-made parts without changing specifications. In the future, they will jointly purchase parts from Samsung's partners in South Korea.

South Korean auto parts are 20 to 30 percent cheaper than similar Japanese products. In considering the fact that South Korean makers' production techniques have

improved, Japanese auto makers think there is much advantage in switching to South Korean parts.

Over-the-Counter Stock Volume Hits Record

*OW0205130595 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT
2 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—The trade volume of Japan's over-the-counter (OTC) stocks hit a record of 33.33 million shares Tuesday [2 May] thanks to considerable inflow of funds from ordinary savings on which interest rates remain low, traders said.

The volume compared with the previous record of 31.96 million shares registered Jan. 11.

The Tuesday volume was also more than twice the 13.31 million shares on the second section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange [TSE] the same day.

One trader said, "it is a bright sign for Japan's stock markets, because the current fund inflow is too much to be absorbed by only the OTC market, and the money will eventually move into first- and second-section stocks."

The Tokyo OTC market, where stocks of relatively small companies with high business performances are listed, has been enjoying active turnover since last Thursday.

The latest boom was spurred by investors, particularly individual ones, who were discouraged by low interest rates on bank deposits and were looking for more profitable investment tools, traders said.

Brisk trading on the stocks of NTT Data Communications Systems Corp., listed on the second section of the TSE last Wednesday, has also renewed investors' interest in the stocks of small companies, they said.

Investors apparently felt safe to invest in OTC stocks, because there are few new listing plans on the market in May and the demand-supply situation is expected to remain stable, they said.

Rallies Mark Constitution Anniversary

*OW0305070395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT
3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 3 KYODO—Forty-eight years after the Constitution of Japan went into effect, opponents called Wednesday [3 May] for revisions to the war-renouncing charter and defenders lauded its pacifist ideals in rallies and demonstrations around the country.

The wives of three former prime ministers, including Mutsuko Miki, attended a women's rally for the Constitution held near Ginza in Central Tokyo, speaking on Japan's war responsibility and postwar compensation issues.

Constitution proponents also rallied in front of Shinjuku Station to deliver a series of speeches for peace to mark the Japanese national holiday of Constitution Day.

Other supporters met at Hibiya Public Hall in Central Tokyo to rally for a no-war resolution to be adopted by the Diet to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II, with an address by Susumu Takahashi, a Tokyo University professor of diplomatic history, on "the 50 postwar years and democracy."

Meanwhile, at the Chiyoda Public Hall, advocates of a revised Japanese Constitution called for an "appropriate constitution for the new age," and discussed "why a revision of the Constitution is necessary."

Advocates of a revised constitution seek a greater Japanese role in UN Peacekeeping activities in order to enhance the country's political position in the world and a stronger Self-Defense Forces (SDF) able to respond better in national emergencies.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN on Wednesday hailed Japan's peace constitution and war-renouncing Article 9 and called for a smaller SDF and only nonmilitary contributions to the international community.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN, in contrast, urged a greater Japanese role in UN Peacekeeping activities and enhanced powers for the prime minister to mobilize the SDF in national emergencies.

LDP Official Joins SDPJ Constitution Event

*OW0305101295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT
3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 3 KYODO—A Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmaker Wednesday [3 May] attended an event sponsored by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) [of Japan (SDPJ)] to commemorate the coming into effect of the Japanese Constitution, the first LDP representative ever to do so.

Kazuo Tanigawa, acting secretary general of the LDP, is the first LDP politician to attend the annual gathering hosted by the SDP, the party's long-time rival but now its coalition partner. This year's gathering is being held to commemorate both Constitution Day and the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The SDP and the LDP currently run the coalition government together with New Party Sakigake, an LDP splinter group, but had been long-time political rivals until they formed the government headed by SDP chief Tomiichi Murayama last year.

In a speech at the gathering, Tanigawa proposed a free debate on the Constitution, saying the LDP considers it important to hold frank discussions with the public on the pacifist constitution without any preconditions or prejudice, based on the principles of freedom, pacifism and respect for basic human rights.

But differences in attitudes among the three coalition parties on a planned Diet no-war resolution surfaced during the event, with participants from the SDP and Sakigake calling for its adoption while Tanigawa made no reference to it in his speech.

Commentator Says SDPJ Split 'Impossible'

OW0205115295 Tokyo SHUKAN DAIYAMONDO in Japanese 15 Apr 95 pp 154-156

[Article by Toichi Suzuki, political commentator: "Zentei's Betrayal Upsets Yamahana's Plan To Form His Own Party, While Prolonging the Life of the Murayama Administration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaving Yamahana Alone in His Palanquin

The split of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] became impossible when, on March 29, the Japan Postal Workers' Union [Zentei]—in a meeting attended by the heads of Zentei's regional organizations—suddenly decided to support the current SDPJ leadership and to recommend its president, Mototaka Ito, as an SDPJ candidate in the July upper house election.

"The SDPJ has no future unless the Murayama Government, formed by a coalition between the SDPJ and the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], collapses." Until now, Zentei has been trying to trigger a split of the SDPJ based on such a viewpoint. When former SDPJ Chairman Sadao Yamahana created an intraparty group, called the New Democratic League, to attain the goal of establishing his own party, Zentei had supported the move, promising Yamahana financial assistance. For all that, Zentei abruptly decided to completely shift its policy.

"With regard to the July upper house election, we decided to back SDPJ candidates. We will rally behind them even if the current SDPJ leadership does not transform the party into a new entity before the election. Should Mr. Yamahana and his colleagues leave the SDPJ to form an independent party, we would definitely not support it," said Zentei Secretary General Susumu Takato during a news conference.

"Until now, it was as if Zentei members had been parading the streets in excitement, shouldering a palanquin with Yamahana inside. Now, it is as if they abruptly ran away, leaving Yamahana alone inside the palanquin. This is a severe blow to Yamahana. He will probably not be able to recover his footing," said a journalist who has been covering the SDPJ for many years.

Zentei's policy change was a complete surprise to everyone. Yamahana had continued to pursue his goal of forming a new party, even after his movement lost momentum following the January 17 Great Hanshin Earthquake.

"Neither our president, Koji Kajimoto, nor our secretary general, Ikuo Kawabe, received advance notice from

Zentei. The truth is that all of us learned through the newspapers that Zentei had changed its policy," an executive member of the Japan Telecommunications Workers' Union [Zendentsu] said.

Zendentsu, along with Zentei, has been a major backer of the Yamahana group. Zentei had deep reasons for not informing Zendentsu of its policy change. Some people speculated that Zentei President Ito had almost lost power. "A sort of coup d'etat might have broken out within Zentei," the above-mentioned journalist said.

An executive member of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation [Rengo] explained the situation as follows: "There is a big difference between Zentei's Central Executive Committee and its regional organizations. Many regional members still support the Shakaishugi Kyokai [a socialist association that represents the SDPJ's leftist faction]. During a meeting held last December, the heads of the regional organizations severely criticized the Central Executive Committee, which has been actively supporting Yamahana's plan to form an independent party. Zentei's regional organizations were against Yamahana's New Democratic League from the very beginning. Local members had been successful in forcing former President Fumihiko Takaragi to resign without actually submitting a vote of no confidence. President Ito was on the verge of becoming another Takaragi. This was the reason for the sudden change in policy." In other words, President Ito suddenly decided to change his policy without even consulting his Zendentsu friends, simply out of fear of losing his position.

"Zentei's Central Executive Committee will hold a meeting on April 20 and 21 to officially announce its support for the SDPJ. It is now holding secret negotiations with the SDPJ Central Executive Committee, in order to get the party's endorsement for President Ito, who wants to run for the Upper House seat to be selected through proportional representation. President Ito would be dismissed should Zentei fail to get the SDPJ's endorsement before its Central Executive Committee meeting," the journalist said.

Until now, President Ito has been saying, "I will run as a Shinshinto candidate in the July upper house election." He was obliged to change his mind, because he found himself in a fix. Now, he is open to the criticism of being too selfish. As a matter of fact, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is angry with him.

"Zentei asked the SDPJ if President Ito could be placed fourth or fifth on the list of SDPJ candidates running for the upper house seat under the proportional representation system. Chairman Murayama got hopping mad when he learned this. Murayama said Zentei's request was out of the question, because if the SDPJ were to comply with it, the party would not hold up," the journalist said.

What the journalist said is right. Prime Minister Murayama has been hurt seriously by Yamahana's secessionist movement, which became very active through the

end of the last year and on into the beginning of this year. At that time, the number of possible defectors was estimated at around 20.

"This question has given Prime Minister Murayama so much trouble that his health has been affected. Murayama has even told his close aides that he wanted to resign. I am sure that Murayama has not forgotten about the hardships he went through during that period of time," the journalist also said.

Yamahana's Movement Started With Ill Feelings

The possibility of Yamahana creating an independent party, namely the possibility of the SDPJ splitting into two or more entities, has completely disappeared as a result of Zentei's policy change. What was the meaning of all this turmoil? Let's retrace the development of the affair.

First of all, the plan by Yamahana and his colleagues to create an independent party fell through because the movement developed ill feelings toward Murayama and his close allies. Zentei President Ito, Zendentsu President Kajimoto, and Yasuo Iwayama, president of the All Japan Federation of Electric Machine Workers' Unions, were in secret contact with members, including Yamahana and Kanju Sato—two SDPJ members that once served as ministers under the Hosokawa cabinet—shortly before Murayama was elected prime minister on 30 June 1994. They decided that, "even if the Hata cabinet were to resign en masse, the SDPJ could be returned to power by participating in the formation of a second Hata cabinet." This group of union leaders and SDPJ members was in contact with Ichiro Ozawa through Hajime Funada of Shinseito. Despite its efforts, the SDPJ leadership abruptly decided to join hands with the LDP to form a new government led by Murayama.

"The SDPJ leadership has been saying that there would be no alliance between the party and the LDP until just before the opening of the Diet plenary session to elect a new prime minister. Despite that, it suddenly decided to join hands and make friends with LDP members. Our pride does not allow us to accept such a situation." That was the group's reaction toward Murayama's nomination as Prime Minister.

Its anger led to the idea of creating an independent party with Yamahana as leader. Another former SDPJ chairman, Makoto Tanabe, also joined the group. Tanabe was displeased by the appointment of such SDPJ members as Tsuruo Yamaguchi, Koken Nosaka, and Shun Oide, to cabinet posts. Instead of voting for Murayama, Tanabe, along with Yamahana, cast a blank vote in the runoff Diet vote to elect a new prime minister.

What a serious situation! Two former chairmen preferred to cast blank votes rather than voting for the current chairman. It may also be said in passing that both Tanabe and Yamahana are Zentei politburo members, and that both Tanabe and Zentei President Ito come from Gunma Prefecture.

There were two illogical points in the argument used by this group. Assuming an anti-LDP attitude, it has been saying that the SDPJ should not join hands with the LDP. However, the truth is that, under the Hosokawa cabinet, the SDPJ had cooperated with Shinseito, which was formed by defectors from the LDP main faction. There seemed to be little difference between cooperating with the former LDP members and joining hands with the current LDP members.

Moreover, since Murayama is the "legitimate head" of the SDPJ, opposing his election as prime minister was almost the same thing as repudiating the SDPJ. Other SDPJ members criticized the group, saying that it was threatening to collapse the government led by Murayama, who had become Japan's first socialist prime minister since Tetsu Katayama held the post in 1947. This critical argument proved useful in checking Yamahana's movement.

The second cause of Yamahana's failure was the intimate relationship between Zentei President Ito and Ozawa, who is now secretary general of the opposition Shinshinto. Ito was said to be very close to Ozawa because of his intimate relationship with Tanabe, who was on good terms with Ozawa. In the very beginning, seven industrial unions had thrown their support behind the Yamahana group; they were Zentei, Zendentsu, the All Japan Federation of Electric Machine Workers' Unions, the Federation of Electric Workers' Unions of Japan, the Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers' Unions, the Japanese Federation of Textile, Garment, Chemical, Mercantile, and Allied Industry Workers' Unions, and the Japanese Federation of Iron and Steel Workers' Unions. Ito's relationship with Ozawa inspired other union leaders to be distrustful, putting them on their guard. Union leaders started saying, "It is very doubtful whether Ito is really supporting the idea of creating an independent party. Perhaps his real intention is to make the Yamahana group join Shinshinto." Yasuo Iwayama, President of the All Japan Federation of Electric Machine Workers' Unions, reportedly withdrew from the movement because he could no longer trust Ito.

When Ozawa made a tour of Europe recently, some news reports said that Ito had an opportunity to meet Ozawa in Paris. Ito did not deny the report at first.

"Apparently, Ito did not meet Ozawa in Paris at all. He did not deny the report, simply because he thought that being regarded as Ozawa's close friend was rather advantageous to him. But recently he has suddenly started saying that he did not, in actuality, meet Ozawa in Paris. This is because Ito decided to run on the SDPJ ticket instead of the Shinshinto's," said the above-mentioned executive member of Zendentsu.

The close relationship between Ozawa and Ito proved fatal to Yamahana. According to the above-mentioned executive member of Rengo, it is taboo to mention Ozawa's name among union members.

Kubo's Indecisive Attitude Also Proved Fatal to Yamahana

The third factor that brought about Yamahana's failure was the indecisive attitude taken by SDPJ Secretary General Wataru Kubo.

"Kubo has been counted among the promoters of the plan to create an independent party. Some industrial unions out of the above-mentioned seven had even proposed the establishment of a new party led by Kubo. For all that, Kubo remained very indecisive. He seemed to know what he wanted when he strongly encouraged Yamahana on one occasion. But on another occasion, he seemed very undecided. Sometimes he even tried to flatter Murayama. Kubo should have made up his mind before the end of last year. He should have said to Yamahana, 'Please immediately leave the party with your colleagues. I and other members of the party leadership will join you later.' But Kubo remained wishy-washy, and in the meantime, Japan was hit by the Great Hanshin Earthquake. If Kubo had made up his mind before January 17, the earthquake would certainly have not set back Yamahana's plan to form a new party," said the same executive member of Rengo.

Kubo could not take a decisive step because he did not want to be stigmatized as the person who collapsed Japan's first Socialist-led Government in 37 years.

"When I went to the Prime Minister's official residence on the day Murayama was elected prime minister, I was really shocked because I saw Murayama talking cheerfully and closely with Yohei Kono, Yoshiro Mori, Koichi Kato, and other LDP leaders. I immediately understood that Murayama had, in effect, reached a secret agreement with them a long time ago. The cabinet lineup was already set before I came in. I did not know anything about this. I was left in the dark. I should have immediately resigned as SDPJ secretary general," Kubo recently said to a union member with whom he was on good terms.

Kubo is right. He should have resigned on that occasion. But regret always comes after the fact. A politician's worth is determined on whether he is able to make prompt decision.

The fourth factor that brought about Yamahana's failure was the strong pressure from the LDP.

Koichi Kato, chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council, did his best to protect Murayama after he heard that the government would not survive if the following four executive members of the SDPJ were to leave the party all at once: Secretary General Wataru Kubo; Tadayoshi Morii, chairman of the Diet Administration Committee; Nobuyuki Sekiyama, chairman of the Policy Board; and Shoichi Tanaka, director of the Labor Bureau.

When Zentsu President Kajimoto visited Kato to present a petition for a telephone rate hike, Kato reportedly said to him: "You had better not push your luck too far. You cannot have your will in everything in the world."

Most of the seven industrial unions that backed the Yamahana group were public utility company-based unions. That has become a negative point for the Yamahana group. What Kato did was to intimidate Kajimoto by implicitly saying, "You should know very well who has the right to determine public utilities rates."

There are now loud cries for reform of the postal savings and postal insurance systems; that is, to place these systems under private management in accordance with the liberalization and the internationalization of the Japanese financial market. Based on this argument, Kato put pressure on Zentei. As for Zentsu, it has already been under pressure over a possible split of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. into several enterprises since the previous government was in power.

The first union leader who bowed to Kato's pressure was Kiyoshi Sasamoto. His union, the Federation of Electric Workers' Unions of Japan, is under the control of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which holds the right to approve the power rates.

Kato also used the following phrase to put pressure on labor unions: "The labor camp might fall under the thumb of Ozawa and his close ally, Yuichi Ichikawa, should the Murayama Government collapse. Will you welcome such a situation?"

One by one, Zentsu and other unions withdrew their support for Yamahana. Zentei was deserted by all its fellow unions.

"Labor Unions Are Most Conservative"

The fifth factor that proved fatal to Yamahana was that Posts and Telecommunications Ministry officials have begun to give a wide berth to Ozawa. Mitsuo Igarashi, director of the telecommunications bureau, Koji Hamada, head of the telecommunications business department, and some other Posts and Telecommunications Ministry bureaucrats had previously formed a group called "Ichi No Kai." Until now, this group had a close relation with Ozawa. "The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry found its freedom of action restrained following the change of Government. Meanwhile, Ichi No Kai has begun to fall away from Ozawa, because the opposition Shinshinto has not been active at all these days. Ozawa's influence has considerably declined in the ministry," said a source close to Ichi No Kai. Zentei followed suit and shifted its policy. "The 150,000-member Zentei is competing with the All Japan Postal Office Labor Union, which was once backed by the former Democratic Socialist Party, and which has a membership of 70,000. The two unions are struggling for members. Zentei cannot survive unless it makes an ally of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry. Since the Ministry has begun to change its course following the appointment of an SDPJ member, Shun Oide, as posts and telecommunications minister, Zentei decided to follow in the ministry's footsteps," the source said. What a perfect harmony between labor and management!

How can we summarize this long drama? Masao Komori, NTT's auditor and former Zendentsu secretary general, sees it as follows. "Zentei President Ito wanted to be a member of the House of Councilors. Zentei supported his idea since it could consequently strengthen its internal structure. The question was: Under which banner should Ito run? At first, Zentei people were thinking of asking Shinshinto to put Ito's name on top of its candidate list for the Upper House proportional seats. However, they immediately realized that Shinshinto would probably not accept placing a union leader on top of the list. So they concluded that the best way would be to make Ito run under the banner of Yamahana's new party. But later, they realized that even if Yamahana succeeded in creating an independent party, the new party would probably not be able to win in the upcoming Upper House election. Thus they decided to revert to the SDPJ in the end."

One important aspect of this drama is that several major industrial unions, as well as the SDPJ, have been quite disrupted by Ito's ambition and Zentei's selfishness.

"Ideological conflicts no longer form the basis of Japanese politics. Thus, the relationship between labor unions and political parties should also change based on policies. Despite that, Zentei continues to act based on political parties. In this sense, Zentei is most conservative, although it pretends to be reformist. It is just the same with Zendentsu. The use of the word "anti-LDP" or "non-LDP" is out of date. Rank-and-file union members will not go along with the union leadership unless it tries to change itself. The main cause of Yamahana's failure was the inability of his supporters to follow the changing of the times," Komori said.

Young NFP Members Critical of Party Leadership

OW0305111395 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 May 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of younger and backbone lawmakers of Shinshinto [New Frontier Party; NFP] has been intensifying its criticism against party executives and voicing its demands for another realignment of the political parties. The 58-member caucus, which demands Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's resignation and is named "A Society To Ponder the Character of a Japanese Prime Minister," is chaired by Hajime Funada, former chief of the Economic Planning Agency.

The group was formed last February when party members, including Permanent Secretary Seiichi Ota and upper house lawmaker Chinpei Nozue, called for Murayama's resignation based on "his failure to take the first step in dealing with the great Hanshin earthquake." It is composed of 15 members from the former Shinseitō, 16 from the former Komeitō, eight from the former Japan Democratic Socialist Party, and seven from the former Japan New Party; six members from the former Jiyu Kaikaku Rengo [Liberal Reform Alliance], five

from the former Liberal Party [LP], and one from the former Liberal-no-Kai [Liberal Club] have also joined the group. The group is mainly supported by a number of party members that supported former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata to run in the party's presidential election.

Some radical views were voiced at recent group meetings. For example, a former LP source said: "Talking about the 'character' [for a Japanese prime minister], we cannot give passing grades even to our party head, Kaifu. In nominating a candidate for the 'post-Murayama' premiership, we might consider voting for Liberal Democratic Party executives, such as Ryutaro Hashimoto, minister of international trade and industry." Moreover, a party rookie lawmaker said: "We may consider campaigning for the next lower house election under Funada's leadership." Speaking as if he were responding to this call, Funada said: "In case of an emergency, I would not hesitate. I am sure we have other qualified members to lead the party." His remarks seem to have aroused a controversy.

The group held a meeting on 27 April and reached a consensus that "a no-confidence motion against the Murayama Cabinet should be submitted to the Diet within the current session." It also decided to work out an appeal to urge top party leaders to submit the no-confidence motion at the end of the long vacation [the so-called Golden Week].

MOF Firms Up Outline of Supplementary Budget

OW0205170095 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 May 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 May, the Ministry of Finance firmed up the outline of the fiscal 1995 draft supplementary budget, which is to be submitted to the Diet on 15 May. The additional spending appropriated in the supplementary budget is expected to slightly exceed 2.5 trillion yen, going primarily towards the great Hanshin earthquake restoration projects and the government's package of yen-curbing measures. An extraordinary cabinet meeting will be held on 15 May to finalize the draft supplementary budget, which will then be submitted to the Diet on the same day.

Approximately 2 trillion yen will be allocated to projects related to disaster relief and anti-disaster measures, including about 1.2 trillion yen towards repair work on roads and port facilities at the Hanshin disaster sites and about 700 billion yen towards such efforts as reinforcing pedestrian overpasses across the nation. In addition, approximately 500 billion yen will be spent on yen-curbing measures. This includes, among other things, additional funds for government-affiliated financial institutions which will provide low-interest loans to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Furthermore, 20-30 billion yen is to be included in the supplementary budget for spending on anti-sarin gas measures.

Revisions will be made in the supplementary budget regarding revenue. Tax revenue will be scaled down to around 130-140 billion yen as a result of the government's preferential tax treatment program to promote imports and handle the effects of the Great Hanshin Earthquake. New expenditures will be covered by issuing national bonds.

EPA Report Shows Housing Standard Index Down

OW0105084595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 1 KYODO—The housing indicator in a government index designed to show consumer attitudes toward living standards slipped in 1993 from a year earlier, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Monday [1 May] in its 1995 report.

The so-called "People's Life Indicators" (PLIs) show year-on-year changes in consumers' views of living standards from eight aspects—housing, household spending, work, raising children, medical care, leisure, studying, and social intercourse.

The agency classified a total of around 150 economic and social statistical data into the eight categories to compute the living standard indicators—which are compared with the base of 100 each for the year of 1980.

For the reporting year 1993, the housing indicator fell by 0.05 point to 101.70, being the only one among the eight to show a year-on-year drop.

The indicator is composed of such factors as construction of houses, housing circumstances, security of the neighborhood, and other matters related to residence.

An EPA official attributed the decline to an increase in housing loans and rising rents, which he said reflect steady investment in housing and construction.

In contrast, the indicator in the studying category reached 106.57, up 1.03 points, the biggest rise among the eight, while the leisure indicator rose 0.71 point to 106.55.

Meanwhile, the indicator for raising children rose 0.24 point to 102.71 and the indicator for work increased only 0.02 point to 103.06.

By prefecture, the housing indicator was highest in Toyama Prefecture, while the medical care indicator peaked in Fukui Prefecture and the studying indicator was highest in Ishikawa Prefecture, all in the Hokuriku region along the Sea of Japan coast.

In Tokyo, though the household spending and leisure indicators were the highest, the indicator for raising children was ranked at 44th place, EPA officials said.

Construction Orders Hit Bottom in FY94

OW0205103795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO—Construction orders dropped for the fourth consecutive

year in fiscal 1994, but the trend of decline has apparently hit bottom, an industry organization said Tuesday [2 May].

The Japan Federation of Construction Contractors said orders received at its 57 member companies in the year which ended March 31 totaled a preliminary 18.79 trillion yen, down 0.5 percent from the year before.

However, the fall is much smaller than the 14.6 percent decline in fiscal 1992 and an 18.0 percent slide in 1993, the organization said.

It said that in fiscal 1994 domestic construction orders totaled 17.79 trillion yen, down 1.5 percent from the year before.

Private-sector orders rose for the first time in four years by 0.7 percent, helped by sound demand for condominiums, but orders from the public sector declined by 5.0 percent for the second year in a row given the relative inactivity in public work projects, the organization said.

Overseas construction orders, on the other hand, showed a brisk 22.2 percent increase to a record 994.8 billion yen, helped by the strong demand in Asian markets, it added.

In March alone, the organization said construction orders increased 4.9 percent from a year earlier to 3.25 trillion yen.

Private-sector orders rose 9.9 percent, marking the first pickup in three months, while public-sector orders dropped 7.5 percent.

Labor Unions' Employment Agreements Discussed

OW3004063295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 30 KYODO—Some 30 percent of labor unions polled have no regulations in their labor agreements with management covering dismissals, a Labor Organization survey showed Sunday [30 April].

The survey by the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) also found that some 20 percent of unions do not negotiate with management over employment adjustments.

Rengo produced the findings after a survey of unions affiliated with it at some 5,211 private companies between December last year and February.

The survey indicated 12 percent of the companies said they instituted adjustments in employment practices in 1991, and the figure rose annually to 41.7 percent in 1994.

The measures included restricting overtime and cutting back on the employment of new graduates, but there

were also increases in the number of companies eliminating employment of part-timers, as well as pressing employees to take retirement, or simply dismissing them.

Most negotiations over changes in employment took the form of "labor-management consultations," the survey said, with "collective bargaining" making up only around 10 percent.

Of those which did not negotiate, 16.3 percent said they failed to do so in relation to all aspects of adjustment to employment practices, while 22.6 percent said they failed to do so in relation to reductions in the work force.

Some 30 percent of the unions said they have no regulations in labor agreements with management covering the sacking, redeployment or temporary assignment of workers.

Of the companies which have regulations in labor agreements on dismissals and transfers, only 14.5 percent require a worker's consent for dismissal, and 13.9 percent for transfers.

Ministry: Earthquake-Induced Joblessness Rising

OW2704124195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—The number of people submitting job applications to public employment security offices as a result of the Jan. 17 great Hanshin earthquake totaled 32,134 at the end of March, up sharply from 9,693 as of Feb. 24, the Labor Ministry said Thursday [27 April].

Only 2,658, or 8.3 percent, of the job seekers have found new employment, the ministry said.

In Hyogo prefecture, 27,576 of those who lost jobs due to damaged work places and other quake-related causes have submitted applications to public employment offices, and 2,018 or 7.3 percent of them have secured new work, the ministry said.

The ministry also reported that 79 business establishments have rescinded their decision to hire a total of 397 workers fresh out of school. Of those young recruits, 255 have been hired by different employers, the ministry said.

The quake-induced joblessness is expected to continue increasing, it said.

Toyota Seeks To Launch Production in Vietnam

OW2804092995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0718 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nagoya, April 28 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. has applied to the Vietnamese Government for permission to launch joint venture production of commercial vehicles in the country, company officials said Friday [28 April].

They said an application has been filed with the Vietnamese State Commission for Foreign Investment and Cooperation on a plan to make minibuses and other commercial vehicles for domestic and overseas marketing.

Toyota has completed feasibility studies on the plan with the cooperation of the Vietnamese Heavy Industry Ministry, they said.

Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and South Korea's Daewoo Motor Co. have already obtained Vietnamese Government approval of their plans to launch automobile production in the country.

German Firm Plans International Phone Services

OW2804122995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0815 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Deutsche Telekom will begin an international telephone service for business customers between Japan and Germany later this year, company officials said Friday [28 April].

The service has become possible because Japan's Posts and Telecommunications Ministry has allowed operators of international value-added network (VAN) communications to also offer telephone services starting in April.

Deutsche Telekom will apply to the ministry for the license through its Japanese subsidiary this summer, the officials said. If approved, the German company will be the first to secure such a license.

VAN business has so far been limited to data telecommunications and facsimile services. The Japanese subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom was authorized to provide VAN services in April 1993.

Deutsche Telekom will lease digital phone lines from Japanese domestic and international telecommunications companies, and release them to corporate customers, they said.

The company will offer its service at charges up to 10 percent lower than those for leasing phone lines from Japanese international telecommunications companies such as Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. (KDD).

The company's target customers are financial institutions and other businesses with establishments in both Japan and Germany, they said.

As Deutsche Telekom has already offered telephone services between Germany and Britain, and between Germany and France, subscribers to the planned service will be able to create in-house phone networks among Japan, Germany, Britain and France.

Tokyo To Push for Indefinite NPT Extension

OW0305085095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, May 3 KYODO—Japan will join the United States and Western European

countries in proposing an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), UN diplomatic sources said Tuesday [3 May].

Japan, which has already been voicing support for an unlimited extension of the treaty, will join other advocates in submitting before the Friday deadline the proposal at an ongoing conference reviewing the 25-year-old treaty, the sources said.

In a related development, Indonesia, which chairs the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), plans to propose that the treaty, after an initial extension of 25 years, be extended for another 25 years automatically unless a majority oppose it, Indonesian sources said.

Indonesia will make the proposal along with other like-minded countries, the sources said.

But NAM sources said only four or five countries seem to support the Indonesian proposal.

The 178-member NPT, which came into effect in 1970, commits nonnuclear states to never acquiring or producing nuclear weapons but allows the five acknowledged nuclear powers—Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S.—to possess them, although they are required to work toward disarmament.

The treaty, under review at the conference since April 17, needs a majority of member countries to approve its extension before it can be renewed.

About 70 percent of the members are said to be supporting the indefinite extension so far.

While the nuclear states and other Western countries call for an indefinite extension of the NPT, the nonaligned countries remain opposed to the idea, arguing it would cement the nuclear privilege of the five declared nuclear powers.

Editorial Urges Review of Nuclear Policy

OW0305050695 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Nuclear Power Project Without Toilet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been said that Japanese nuclear power plants are like "mansions without toilets." This is because the plants produce large quantities of radioactive waste with no prospects for disposal.

Greenpeace, an international environmental protection organization, tried to present a huge imitation toilet bowl to Makiko Tanaka, who is director general of the Science and Technology Agency [STA] and also chairperson of the Nuclear Power Committee. The attempt made a good topic of conversation and was a cynical performance criticizing Japan's current nuclear power development project.

An incident, which exposed the weak point of Japan's nuclear power project, took place on 25 April. Aomori

Prefecture Governor Morio Kimura "refused to give permission" for a British freighter, which brought high-level radioactive waste from France, to dock at Mutsu Ogawara Port in Rokkashomura, Aomori Prefecture. Because of this, the ship had to languish offshore.

Japan sends spent nuclear fuel to either Britain or France for reprocessing. The recent shipment of highly radioactive waste, left over from the reprocessing of spent fuel, is the first of its kind. It will be temporarily stored at a nuclear fuel recycling complex of the Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. [JNFL] for 30-50 years. However, no decision has been made as to what will happen to the nuclear waste after that.

Governor Kimura, who is concerned about the possibility that the prefecture may become a permanent storage site, demanded JNFL and STA "assure Aomori Prefecture that it will not become the final waste storage site." The governor refused to accept a reply from the government. Because of this, the ship's entrance into the port was delayed one day.

The government's Nuclear Power Committee is saying it will start operating a permanent disposal site for high-level radioactive waste several hundred kilometers underground by the mid-2040's at the latest. However, even the construction of a storage science center, designed to study various matters before actually storing the radioactive waste permanently, in Horonobe-cho, Hokkaido, has been suspended due to opposition from local residents.

As the recent move by Aomori Prefecture indicates, it is even more difficult to make a decision on the final storage site. We are certain that any local autonomy would hesitate to accept high-level radioactive waste, a troublesome material that continues to emit strong radiation for several thousand years. Even if it can find a local autonomy which is willing to become a permanent nuclear storage site, the government has to make an enormous effort to secure the safety of radioactive waste storage deep in the ground, because this is a major issue which will involve future generations. No country in the world has a clear plan for storage of high-level nuclear waste.

Meanwhile, the amount of high-level nuclear waste continues to grow. This time, Japan transported 28 stainless steel canisters containing highly radioactive waste liquid mixed with glass. However, over 3,000 canisters will be returned from Britain and France over a period of more than 10 years. Beginning in 2000, Japan will be producing high radioactive waste in large quantities because commercial nuclear recycling plants will start to operate.

It is important for the government to have policies based on a proper view of the future and to obtain understanding and cooperation from people at home and abroad. What about the reality? Because of requests from both Britain and France, the shipping route of the British-registered freighter was not disclosed and 35 countries and regions expressed their opposition to and concerns about the radioactive waste shipping. Aomori

Prefecture also called on the government to disclose information, including the shipping route. However, the government announced only the ship's arrival date at Ogawara Port. We hope the government will introduce a principle designed to disclose shipping routes and other data that improves the safety of shipping in the future.

It was obvious that Japan would face a problem in dealing with high-level radioactive waste. However, the government and electric power companies have been adverse to bringing the issue of disposal to the forefront. They can no longer continue to do so. We hope the government will buckle down to the issue of dealing with radioactive waste as if it were making a fresh start. The government should also conduct studies to see if the method of burying the waste deep in the ground is reasonable.

High-level radioactive waste, equivalent to the amount transported this time, will be produced if a nuclear power plant, capable of generating 1 million kilowatts of electricity, operates for one year. High-level radioactive waste will pile up rapidly should Japan continue to increase its reliance on nuclear power plants in accordance with its current policy. We hope that the recent standoff, in which the freighter languished offshore for hours, provided a reason to review Japan's nuclear policy.

EPA Urges Global Consensus on Environment

OW2804133395 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—An international consensus is necessary to deal with "cross-border" environmental problems that arise with trade, a report released by the Economic Planning Agency said Friday [28 April].

Titled "Trade and the Environment," the report was based on a survey commissioned by the agency to Sumitomo Life Research Institute, a private insurance company affiliated think tank.

The report noted that there is as yet no clear policy for solving the problems of damage to the environment, such as air pollution, which can be produced by a manufacturing base in one country and spread across borders to another.

There is a need for countries worldwide to reach a consensus on this issue and to hammer out a multilateral agreement, the report said.

It pointed out that from an environmentalist's point of view, unilateral trade sanctions are seen to be effective measures to prompt a country which is damaging the environment to halt its detrimental actions.

Such sanctions can be said to be needed because countries asked to pay costs to a victim country could refuse to participate in an international agreement on the environment, the report said.

On the other hand, from the point of encouraging free trade, unilateral trade sanctions are feared to be of a protectionist nature and likely to lead to fierce disagreements, it said.

For developing countries, the principle of the polluting country paying for the costs incurred—"Polluter Pays Principle (PPP)"—can add to economic burdens.

There are, therefore, views that in cross-border environmental issues, a "victim pays principle (VPP)" could be adopted if the polluter is a developing country and the victim is an industrialized one, the report noted.

The drawback to such financial help from industrialized countries is that the aid could become similar to subsidies, giving the polluter no incentive to stop pollution.

The report concluded that the best solution lies in adopting both the PPP and VPP between governments, whereby the polluting developing country takes policies in line with PPP and the victim industrialized country gives governmental help.

Aum Members' Reentry Into Society Discussed

OW0205091095 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 30

[Interview with freelance writer Shoko Egawa by an unidentified MAINICHI SHIMBUN reporter; place and date not given; first graph is MAINICHI SHIMBUN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hidden facts about Aum Shinrikyo have gradually been uncovered. MAINICHI SHIMBUN recently asked Shoko Egawa, a 36-year-old freelance writer familiar with the religious sect, about various Aum-related issues, including the mental frame of mind of those who become Aum believers and those who have left the cult, and social rehabilitation for Aum seceders.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] What is the connection between Aum teaching and the sect's suspected production of sarin?

[Egawa] Aum Shinrikyo plans to create an ideal society following Armageddon. They call this plan the "Sham-barization Project" [name as published]. The sect originally launched the project as a mere dream or just an ideal, but it now intends to carry it out. From our viewpoint, this is a fantasy similar to those seen in the world of cartoons such as "Kaze no Tani no Naushika [Naushika in the Windy Valley]" and "Uchu-Senkan Yamato [Space Battleship Yamato]." The cult always has to have an enemy to fight against to keep itself going. If they just "play with an idea of creating their own state," they are less blamable. However, with technology, expertise, and money that each Aum section possesses, they buy and produce real things. They should be satisfied with just having dreams and miniature-size models. It is impossible for university laboratories to produce

sarin because of ethical and legal restrictions. However, I presume it is possible for Aum to do so if the production of the toxic chemical meets their interests and the leader gives a green sign.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] Some Aum followers have been arrested for suspected kidnapping and confinement of former members.

[Egawa] Aum followers have been taught that those who turn their back on the sect will go to hell, and that it is a sin to do nothing regarding those who have left Aum. Therefore, they struggle to bring former members back.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] When did the cult change its way of recruiting members?

[Egawa] I believe it was around 1992, when Aum began to advance in Russia. At that time, you could do anything in Russia if you had money. It was possible for the sect to buy a radio program under a three-year contract if it could afford \$8 billion annually. Buying a radio program offered many advantages to the cult but cost it much money. Thus, they made efforts to raise funds more desperately than before. They frantically recruited people who could make offerings.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] What is their purpose in creating organizations similar to central government ones?

[Egawa] A distinctive feature of Aum Shinrikyo is that there is a direct relationship between the leader and his followers, including rank-and-file members. This characteristic will prevent the cult from becoming a larger religious group. The leader would not be satisfied unless he has all his followers in hand.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] What made some members decide to leave the sect?

[Egawa] For example, a senior Aum member began to question Aum teaching and quit the cult following an incident in which he saw a car, running side-by-side with his, hitting a man and then just running away because he had "work" to do for Aum. He was annoyed that he had done nothing to help the victim of the car accident although his purpose for joining the religious sect was to help people. However, his case is very exceptional. Most left the sect because they did not like the poor environment surrounding their children and other living conditions in Aum facilities, such as food and bathing equipment.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] What should be done to help those who have obtained priesthood status in the sect to return to social life?

[Egawa] Physical and psychiatric rehabilitation are necessary to help them return to social life. To help them do so, their families should seriously consider why they feel they do not belong to society and why they think it is impossible in this society to develop their potential, because these are the reasons they decided to join the sect. Aum Shinrikyo has increased its membership primarily by recruiting young people. It has brainwashed them by planting in their

minds the "idea of karma" and the "fear of perdition." The Aum leadership have taught young followers that if they accumulate evil karma, they will go to hell and will spend the next incarnation as a famished devil. Those who left the sect have had difficulty leading positive lives because they are obsessed by the thought that "there is only hell ahead of me because I violated Aum teaching." This is not so much a religious problem as a family and social issue. Therefore, you do not have to be a religious man to help them return to social life. The only way to rehabilitate them is to induce them to question Aum teaching and have their own thoughts.

[MAINICHI SHIMBUN] There are many Aum members who have been arrested in a series of police investigations.

[Egawa] I hope their families will visit them in prison and supply things to them. Their arrested daughters, sons, and husbands may refuse to see them at first, but if they visit them everyday, they will begin to think: "I belong to my family. They have not abandoned me." Aum members' families should give their folks in the sect the greatest affection even if the general public and they themselves are critical of Aum Shinrikyo.

North Korea

KPA Bans UN Observers From Panmunjom Area

SK0305043295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424
GMT 3 May 95

["Statement of KPA Panmunjom Mission"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army [KPA] today released a statement denouncing the U.S. side for persistently acting against the DPRK-proposed setting up of a new peace arrangement system.

The statement reads in full:

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward a proposal for the establishment of a new peace arrangement system in April last year and actively took a series of practical steps for its realization.

The U.S. side, however, has showed no affirmative response to our reasonable proposal for a stable situation on the Korean peninsula and a durable peace in this region. And it withdrew its plan for the phased reduction of the U.S. troops in South Korea and has further stepped up arms race and frequently staged military manoeuvres against our republic in accordance with its new east Asia strategy.

According to the announcement of the U.S. military authorities, 150 Abrams tanks will be introduced into South Korea in May, and 24 Apache helicopter gunships by the end of the year.

What draws a serious attention is that the U.S. let South Korea build many fortified positions and military setups in the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ], a buffer zone with the Military Demarcation Line in between, and recently deployed a large number of tanks, armoured cars, guns and other heavy weapons there.

The U.S. and the South Korean authorities bring thousands of military personnel armed with sophisticated weapons into the DMZ for military provocations against our side almost every day.

As a consequence, the South side's area of the DMZ has turned into an attack position for northward invasion contrary to the original mission of the zone. It is no longer a buffer zone for the prevention of armed conflicts between the two sides.

Now that the Czechoslovak and Polish delegations have withdrawn from the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, the mechanism is not available in accordance with Paragraph 37 of the Armistice Agreement. But, the U.S. side is still holding regular meetings of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in an attempt to use the mechanism for covering up its war preparations for aggression.

The Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army decided to adopt the following measures, upon authorisation, to counter the persistent acts of the U.S. side against our proposal for a new peace arrangement system:

1. The office room, the rest room and the amusement room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom under our control shall be sealed completely.
2. Since the armistice supervisory body has broken, the personnel and journalists of the U.S. Army side and officials of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission are totally prohibited from coming over to the section of our side in the Panmunjom Joint Security Zone without permission.
3. If the U.S. side remains an onlooker to the arms reinforcement and military provocations of the South Korean puppets in the South side's area of the DMZ under its control, we will take steps concerning the position of the DMZ to cope with them.

We will, in the future, too, sharply watch the attitude of the U.S. side and take steps, if necessary.

Establishment of New Peace Mechanism Urged

SK2804215895 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 28 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)*—The world public has been exhorting the United States to accept the DPRK-proposed establishment of a new peace mechanism at an earlier date.

The bulletin published by the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (Cil-reco) said the unstable state of armistice on the Korean peninsula fans the confrontation with arms, as it is a constant source of a new war, noting "the United States must accede to the signing of a peace agreement proposed by the DPRK without delay."

General Secretary of the Indian Association of Lawyers Jitendra Sharma [spelling of name as received] in a press statement noted that the establishment of a new peace mechanism in Korea is a matter that should be settled between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, stressing the U.S. should be well aware of the vulnerability of the present Armistice Agreement and fulfil its obligation to establish a new peace mechanism.

The Zimbabwean National Committee for the Study of the Chuche Idea and the Zimbabwe-Korea Friendship and Solidarity Association in a joint statement said, "The Korean Armistice Agreement was underwritten by the DPRK and the U.S. and it is, in actuality, the United States that takes the prerogative of the supreme command in South Korea." "Therefore, negotiations on the establishment of a new peace mechanism will be desirable between the DPRK and the United States."

The Nepalese paper PEOPLE'S REVIEW said that the United States can never flee from its responsibility, for it was a legal partner who must not skip from the establishment of a new peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

Foreign Reports on U.S. Reactor Talks Noted

SK0305055795 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Various countries' papers, news agencies, and broadcasts reported on our country's foreign ministry spokesman's answer to the question raised by a reporter of the Korean Central News Agency in connection with the rupture of the third round of the DPRK-U.S. working-level negotiations on the supply of light-water reactors.

China's RENMIN RIBAO reported on 24 April as follows: The spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry said the Korean side will take the necessary decisive countermeasures after sounding out the true intentions of the U.S. side. The spokesman said Korea showed the maximum magnanimity and made sincere efforts, while putting forth epoch-making proposals for the settlement of the light-water reactor issue at the third round of the DPRK-U.S. working-level negotiations on the supply of light-water reactors which began on 25 March. The spokesman further added, however, that the negotiations ruptured because the United States insisted on trying to impose South Korean-style light-water reactors.

On 24 and 25 April, this country's LIAONING RIBAO and LIAONING XINWEN also reported on the foreign ministry spokesman's answers.

On 24 April, the Vietnamese NHAN DAN and HANOI DOI newspapers; on 23 April, the Syrian TISHRIN and AL-THAWRAH newspapers; and on 23 and 24 April, the Egyptian EGYPTIAN GAZETTE and AL-AHRAM, the Iranian TEHRAN TIMES, Italy's ANSA news agency and state radio, the Vatican Broadcast, the Tanzanian broadcast, and the Equatorial Guinean broadcast reported on the foreign ministry spokesman's answers.

'Total Dismantlement of Nuclear Weapons' Urged

SK0105121395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] in the calls published on April 30 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding lays stress on pushing ahead with global independence in firm unity with the peoples of all countries of the world who defend independence.

They call for waging an active struggle to make the international community independent and democratic and build a free, peaceful and friendly, new world free from domination and subjugation under the banner of independence, peace and friendship.

Referring to strengthening the internationalist unity and solidarity of the revolutionary parties with the idea of socialism, they extend support and solidarity for the revolutionary parties and people in their struggle to rebuild socialism.

Stressing the need to destroy the old international political order and economic order of domination and subjugation and defend equality and independence in the international relations, the calls say:

Let us further strengthen and develop the Non-aligned Movement under the uplifted banner of independence!

Let us oppose the neo-colonialist exploitation and plunder on the developing countries and develop South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance!

Let us struggle for a durable peace in Asia and the rest of the world against aggression and war!

Let us struggle for a total dismantlement of nuclear weapons!

ROK 'Aggravating' Military Tension on Peninsula

SK0305104595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 3 May 95

["South Korean puppets' scheme aggravating military tension"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—Yi Yang-ho, "defence minister" of South Korea, chattered about "maintenance of thorough precautions of the

Army" and "strengthening of military preparedness", at units of the puppet army, a Seoul-based Radio reported.

This shows well that the Kim Yong-sam group continues infusing the puppet army with war fever and aggravating military tension on the Korean peninsula.

Yi, clamoring about "increase of military tension between the North and the South", talked as if the North were to blame. This is a crafty stereo-typed trick of the puppets who arouse a nest of hornets and then blame others, misguiding public opinion.

Yi shamelessly claimed that a strange indication of military activities of the North was detected along the Military Demarcation Line.

His remarks were aimed at justifying their ceaseless provocative war exercises against the fellow countrymen in the area along the MDL [military demarcation line] and throughout South Korea.

The Kim Yong-sam group tries to find a way out by unleashing a war on the Korean peninsula, but it will lead to self-ruin.

ROK Introduction of Guns into DMZ Denounced

SK0305011795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a military source, the South Korean puppets brought two 90-mm recoilless guns into a military police guard post near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] Marker No. 0968 southwest of Mundok-ri, Changdo County, at around 0650 yesterday [2150 GMT 29 April].

Having installed the (?illegally) introduced recoilless guns at positions on the right and left ridge lines at the military police guard post there, the puppets instigated a warlike atmosphere of confrontation while aiming the guns at the members of our-side civil police for a long time.

This is an intentional and premeditated scheme by the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique designed to strain and aggravate the situation in this area.

The South Korean puppets should look squarely at the grave consequence that will be brought about by the straining and aggravating the situation in the DMZ area along the MDL, should not act recklessly, and should immediately withdraw the heavy weapons which they have illegally brought in.

'Corrupt Social System' Cause of ROK Explosion

SK0205105795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 2 May 95

["Product of Anti-Popular Corrupt Policy"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 2 (KCNA)—A large gas explosion took place in Taegu, South Korea, on April 28. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a product of the corrupt social system of South Korea disregarding the people and the anti-popular policy of the "civilian"-veiled traitors.

The analyst goes on:

Seating itself at the helm of power, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique advertized as if it would improve the corrupt social system of South Korea and provide the people with a stabilized life. But it has done nothing for democratisation of society and the solution of the problems of the people's life since it took office. South Korean people regard the political incompetence and treacherous rule of the Kim Yong-sam group as the cause of the collapse of Songsu Bridge and a flyover, fire on a passenger ship and gas explosion accidents which came under the rule of the "civilian regime". As regards the current gas explosion accident, they denounced the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique, the culprit of the case, saying it is a "man-made disaster, not a natural one".

The traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique must step down from power, bearing the responsibility for all the accidents in South Korea, including the latest gas explosion.

May Day 'Antigovernment Struggle' in ROK Noted

SK0305051195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459
GMT 3 May 95

["Righteous Resistance Against Anti-Popular Policy"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—An estimated 25,000 students and workers of South Korea staged an anti-"government" struggle on May day. At the anti-"government" rally, they denounced the puppet authorities' anti-popular policies under which serious accidents including the Taegu gas explosion are taking place one after another and vowed to struggle against the Kim Yong-sam "regime" before going over to a fierce demonstration.

This struggle is an eruption of the pent-up wrath of the South Korean workers and students and a righteous struggle to remove the Kim Yong-sam clique which has enforced a treacherous and anti-popular misrule, a news analyst of MINJU CHOSON today says, and continues:

South Korean students and workers turned out in the righteous struggle because they keenly felt that they could neither extricate themselves from the present misfortunes and sufferings nor achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country as long as there exists the "civilian-veiled regime".

The brutal suppression of this struggle by the Kim Yong-sam group is a last-ditch effort of those who are driven into a blind alley.

With no suppression can the South Korean puppet clique check the righteous action of the South Korean people, the analyst of MINJU CHOSON stresses.

Solidarity Group Marks 19 Apr Uprising in ROK

SK2804233395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2213
GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 28 (KCNA)—The organisation of solidarity of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America held a meeting on April 24 on the 35th anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising of the South Korean people.

Ramon Pez Ferro, secretary general of the organisation, said in his speech that the uprising powerfully encouraged the world people in their struggle against the imperialist aggressors and their stooges and for national independence and freedom.

The South Korean people have the three principles of national reunification and "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" advanced by respected President Kim Il-song, he said, adding that the 10-point programme is the only great charter of the nation's unity.

Political and public figures and men of the press in Cuba and party and front representatives of different countries in Havana were present at the meeting.

'Outrage' Against ROK Religious Leaders Alleged

SK3004082295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814
GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—The fascist clique of South Korea, on April 28, booked without detention leader of Taejonggyo An Ho-sang and arrested chairman of the National Council for Reunification and Restoration Kim Son-chok, who had visited the northern half of Korea, by invoking the "Law on South-North Exchange and Cooperation", a Seoul-based radio reported.

During their visit to the North, An Ho-sang and Kim Son-chok called at the tomb of King Tangun, the ancestral father of the nation, to celebrate Tangun's ascension day and engaged only in activities for the nation's reconciliation and reunification.

Nevertheless, the fascist clique is suppressing them branding their activities as criminal moves. This shows that the "civilian" ruling quarters are, indeed, tyrants considering even the religious activities to be an object of punishment as well as the traitors opposed to reunification of the country.

Repatriation of Unconverted 'Prisoners' Urged

SK2904105695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035
GMT 29 Apr 95

["Prompt Repatriation of Unconverted Long-Term Prisoners Urged"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The Korean people and the broad world public are lifting up the voices demanding the repatriation of old Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae, unconverted long-term prisoners in South Korea, to the northern half of Korea.

This is very just both in view of humanitarianism and in view of the Korean Armistice Agreement and international law, an analyst of MINJU CHOSON today says, and continues:

The Kim Yong-sam group must unconditionally and promptly send the unconverted long-term prisoners back to their hometowns as unanimously demanded by them, their family members and all the fellow countrymen and the world people. The three old men should have been repatriated to the northern half of Korea at the time of the exchange of POWs immediately after the ceasefire because they served in the Korean People's Army [KPA] during the fatherland liberation war and were taken prisoners while performing military duties at guerrilla units during the strategical temporary retreat of the KPA.

They have undergone great misfortunes and sufferings owing to the inhumane behaviour of the South Korean rulers and their violation of human rights. To send them back to their hometowns in the northern half of Korea is an urgent matter the solution of which brooks no further delay.

If the Kim Yong-sam group persistently refuses their repatriation under unwarrantable pretexts, they will face stern punishment by all the fellow countrymen and the world peoples.

Humanitarian Law Said Violated

SK0305140395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 3 May 95

["Repatriation of Unconverted Long-Term Prisoners Urgent"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The unconverted long-term prisoners, old men Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae in South Korea should be repatriated to the North. It is urgent matter unanimously demanded by the Korean people as well as the world people who respect justice, truth and human rights.

An article of NODONG SINMUN today says this and goes on:

It is entirely just for not only the Korean nation but also the world to strongly demand the repatriation of unconverted long-term prisoners.

The members of the delegation of the families of unconverted long-term prisoners on a visit to Beijing had an emotion-charged telephone meeting with old men Kim In-so, Ham Se-hwan and Kim Yong-tae in South Korea

on April 8. This showed that the repatriation of the unconverted long-term prisoners is a matter which brooks no further delay.

They are in the most miserable lot at the advanced age and suffer from gross violation of human rights.

Though released from prison they are deprived of freedom and are suffering mentally and physically as they did in prison fettered by the evil "law on observation for public peace".

Now they are strongly demanding their immediate repatriation to the North where their families and relatives live, as they cannot eke out a living and survive without protection by their kith and kin.

The Kim Yong-sam group is obliged to send them back to the North in view of international humanitarian law and in view of the demand of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

If the Kim Yong-sam group persistently rejects the repatriation of the unconverted long-term prisoners, challenging the demand of people at home and abroad, it will meet stronger denunciation from the entire fellow countrymen in the North, South and overseas and human conscience as the heinous violator of international humanitarian law.

Liberation Day, Reunification Festival Tie Urged

SK0105095795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] in the calls published on April 30 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding calls for greeting the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country as the grand reunification festival common to the nation in which people in the North, the South and overseas will take part.

The calls note:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song had devoted his all to achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country till the last moment of his life since the division of the country and performed the great undying feats for the country and the nation in this course.

Let us achieve the reunification of the country at an early date, upholding the cause of reunification of the great leader, the father of the nation!

Let us hold a grand national conference in which political parties, organisations and the people from all walks of life in the North, the South and overseas will participate and confirm the way of national reunification!

The most reasonable and realistic way of national reunification is to realize confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

Let us smash the splittist move of the South Korean ruling quarters and wage a nationwide struggle to realize the most fair and aboveboard proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo!

Those with strength should devote strength, those with knowledge give knowledge and those with money donate money, thus making tangible contribution to the cause of national reunification, the calls say.

They appeal to the South Korean people to wage a persistent struggle for the abolition of the "National Security Law" and the "Agency for National Security Planning" which block national reunification and strangle democracy.

Closing Events of International Festival Reported

U.S. Tourists Give Impressions

SK2904110195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016
GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The members of the U.S. Orbit tourist group staying here to participate in the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for peace gave their impressions after being shown round different places of Korea.

Dabid Burges [spelling of name as received], a member of the group, said, after visiting Mangyongdae, that he saw the deep reverence of the Korean people for the great President Kim Il-song.

He came to know a lot about Korea, he said.

Korea is a very beautiful country and big efforts are being directed to the preservation of culture, he noted.

He said while witnessing a great many things in Korea, he came to have friendly feelings towards her.

Dabid Fennell [spelling of name as received], a member of the group, said Korea leaves deep impressions upon people.

He has already visited towns of some countries, but in Korea he saw a town the like of which cannot be found in any other parts of the world, he said.

The U.S. is engaged in a distorted propaganda about Korea, he said, adding:

"In the United States there are many people who want to visit Korea.

"Korea is a country where everything is clean and all things go well."

CNN, ABC Delegates Visit Mangyongdae

SK0105085395 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan [Chongnyon]

led by Chong Kwang-su, vice director-general of Chongnyon Central Standing Committee Secretariat; tourist groups from Dandong, China; a group of cameramen from CNN of the United States; and a group of reporters from ABC of the United States, who came to Pyongyang to participate in the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace, have visited Mangyongdae.

They visited the old Mangyongdae home and listened to the story about the house, where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born and encouraged the great ambition for the revolution in his childhood, and looked attentively at the relics preserved with greatest care in this historic house.

They posed for photographs commemorating their visit to the old Mangyongdae home and looked at the historic revolutionary sites at Mangyongbong.

The Chongnyon delegation head Chong Kwang-su stated: As I stand in the garden of the old Mangyongdae, where the chuche sun rose, the fatherly leader's generous and benevolent image floats before my eyes, and I feel an irresistible yearning for the leader. The fatherly leader stepped out of the brushwood gate of the old Mangyongdae house early in his teenage years and liberated the country, and built our fatherland as a strong socialist country. Because they upheld the fatherly leader, our people have changed from the sufferers in history into the greatest people. Without the fatherly leader, we cannot think of the self-esteem of our fatherland and the national dignity and pride. We bear deep in our hearts the honor of upholding great Generalissimo Kim Il-song as the leader for the first time in the 5,000-year national history. The immortal achievements accumulated by the fatherly leader before our fatherland and nation will shine forever. Upholding the teachings left by the fatherly leader, we will devote all we have to enriching and strengthening our country, our fatherland, under the leadership of respected and beloved Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il.

Japanese tourist and groups of cameramen, groups of tourists of the high-grade Taegwondo masters in Canada, and several tourist groups from China visited various places in Pyongyang, including the Tower of Chuche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, the Chilgol Revolutionary Museum, the Changsan Revolutionary Museum, the Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, the People's Grand Study Palace, Mangyongdae Students and Children's Palace, the Pyongyang subway, and the Mansudae Production Company.

Hwang, Yi Meet PRC Delegation

SK2904051595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450
GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman

of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Friday met and had a friendly talk with a Chinese delegation headed by Liu Zhenhua, representative, and vice-president of the Overseas Chinese Committee, of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

The delegation is visiting Korea to participate in the Pyongyang festival as a guest of honor.

Present on the occasion were Yi Mong-ho, secretary-general of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

Guests Visit Kim Il-song Statue

SK2904053095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—Guests of honor, overseas Koreans and tourist groups staying here to take part in the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song standing on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang to lay floral baskets and bouquets and make a bow.

They are guests of honor of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and Koreans in China, tourist groups from Dandong and Longjing, China and the 2nd Yanji tourist group, a Yanbian tourist group, the 1st Changchun tourist group and the 18th Dandong tourist group of China, the 5th, 9th, 14th, 15th, 20th tourist groups of Japan, foreign tourist groups in China, a Hong Kong tourist group, a British businessmen's tourist group, a Korean tourist from Greece and the 1st and 2nd tourist groups of Russia.

Participants Praise North Korea

SK0305130195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 3 May 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—Members of the tourist groups from different countries, who had taken part in the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace, expressed their impressions on the visit to Korea.

Edward Widma Junio, head of the Cheil Tourist Group of the United States, said that he was moved at sight of everything he saw in Korea—the arch of triumph conveying the immortal exploits of the great leader President Kim Il-song, world famous Mt. Kungang, a cultural recreation center for people, the tomb of King Tangun and the Korean Film Studio.

He stressed that all the people of the world should be advised to visit Korea in the future to get knowledge of this country which has a developed economy and culture, adding:

“Korea is good to live in today, but will be better in the future.”

Haruo Kanai, member of the 9th tourist group from Japan, said: I was deeply impressed wherever I went.

Under the leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear General Kim Chong-il the Korean people built their country so magnificently that foreigners may hardly imagine what the reality of Korea is.

While seeing all people full of vigour, I thought Korea is a united and powerful country and she will develop indefinitely in the future.

Choe Hae-yon, a compatriot of the tourist group from Dandong, China, stressed that the Korean nation, once trampled underfoot by foreign forces, came to have the honour of being a powerful and dignified nation today because of the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the great leader General Kim Chong-il.

Choe Min-kwon, a compatriot of the group, said:

We, overseas Koreans, keenly realized how happy the people in the motherland are.

We believe that though the fatherly leader President Kim Il-song passed away, the cause of the Korean revolution will be certainly accomplished as there is the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. This is practically proved by the reality of today.

Mass Gymnastic Display Performed

SK3004091295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0907 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA)—50,000 students and school children in Pyongyang performed the mass gymnastic display “The Great Leader of People” at Kim Il-song Stadium on April 30 within the framework of the “Day of Korea” of the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace.

The display was watched by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin and Kim Yong-sun, Vice-Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol and officials concerned.

It was also watched by Kanji Inoki, leader of the Sports Peace Party of Japan, member of the House of Councilors and president of the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., foreign pro-wrestling stars, artistes, guests of honor and tourists.

The mass gymnastic display consists of six chapters including “The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us”, “Comrade Kim Chong-il, Peerless Great Man” and “We Will Uphold Him Forever”.

It shows on a grand epical canvas the imperishable revolutionary exploits performed by the great leader President Kim Il-song in the socialist cause of chuche and the cause of independence of the popular masses.

It also shows the greatness of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who is leading the revolution and construction to victory with outstanding ideological and theoretical intelligence, leadership ability and popular traits.

It demonstrated the unshakable faith and will of the Korean people to accomplish the cause of socialism and achieve the reunification of the country in the 1990s at any cost in singlehearted unity around Comrade Kim Chong-il, holding President Kim Il-song in high esteem forever, and the true looks of socialist Korea which is dynamically advancing toward victory.

It was acclaimed by the spectators for its high ideological and artistic plane, refined skill, strong organisation and discipline.

Japanese Brings Gift for Kim

*SK2904110295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043
GMT 29 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Kanji Inoki, leader of the Japan Sports Peace Party, member of the House of Councillors and president of the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., who is participating in the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace.

Kanji Inoki handed the gift to Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee.

Japan Delegation Gives Banquet

*SK0105124295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0919
GMT 1 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., Ltd. gave a banquet at the Mansudae Art Theatre on Sunday on the successful conclusion of the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace.

Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, and officials concerned were invited at the banquet.

Present there were Kanji Inoki, leader of the Sports Peace Party of Japan, member of the House of Councillors and president of the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., and his party, Muhammad Ali, a U.S. guest of honour of the festival, and his party, pro-wrestling stars, famous artistes and prominent personages from different countries.

President Kanji Inoki in his speech expressed the belief that the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace, which took place with a large attendance under the warm care of his excellency respected

Kim Chong-il, would contribute to the peace in Asia and the rest of the world and to the promotion of friendship among peoples in the Asia-Pacific region.

It gives me a pleasure, he said, that I witnessed, through the Pyongyang Festival, the looks and united strength of the Korean people who are confidently advancing along the road of Korean style socialism under the wise leadership of his excellency respected Kim Chong-il.

To ensure peace in the Asia-Pacific region and realise the world's peace is the political program of the Sports Peace Party of Japan, he stressed, adding:

I hope that the Japan-Korea relations and the U.S.-Korea relations will be improved and hold that the peaceful reunification of Korea should be realised as soon as possible.

Next, Yi Chong-hyok, vice-chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, made a speech.

An art performance was given by the artistes from Japan and the United States on the same day.

Closing of Festival Reported

*SK2904220795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515
GMT 29 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace which opened on April 28 closed today after concluding its programme successfully.

That day the farewell match of world's pro-wrestling champion Kanji Inoki took place amidst the warm welcome and applause of the spectators. Kanji Inoki is a disciple of Rikidozan (Kim Sin-nak by the Korean name) who was an unrivalled world pro-wrestling champion.

He beat Ric Flair, a pro-wrestling star from the United States.

Prizes were awarded to Kanji Inoki and Ric Flair.

After receiving the prizes, Kanji Inoki shouted "Pyong-hwa" (peace) in Korean at the top of his voice, which was warmly responded by the spectators.

12 individual and 4 double matches were held in the festival.

The festival in which world pro-wrestling strongmen fully demonstrated their noble spirit of sportsmanship and techniques, was a significant one because prominent figures from many countries the world over united their voices for peace and expressed their understanding and support for the just cause of the Korean people.

The festival also provided an opportunity for the foreign guests from many countries around the world to see at first hand the looks of the Korean people who are united around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind and the advantages of the Korean-style socialism.

Leaders Attend Festival Closing*SK2904230495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527
GMT 29 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace which opened with a large attendance in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on April 28 closed today after concluding its programme successfully.

The Pyongyang festival fully demonstrated the ardent desire and aspirations of the Korean people and progressive people of the world for peace, and thus marked a new occasion for one more milestone in the development of world sports and cultural movement.

The festival in which world pro-wrestling strongmen fully demonstrated their noble spirit of sportsmanship and techniques, was a significant one because prominent figures from many countries the world over united their voices for peace and expressed their understanding and support for the just cause of the Korean people.

The festival also provided an opportunity for the foreign guests from many countries around the world to see at first hand the looks of the Korean people who are united around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind and the advantages of the Korean-style socialism.

A portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-sung was seen in the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium in the venue of the closing ceremony of the festival. The stadium and its surroundings were adorned with fluttering festival flags and bunting and various festival decorations.

Balloons with streamers reading "welcome," "independence," "peace" and "friendship" were seen in the stadium.

The stadium was crowded with people, who raised cheers upon the successful festival.

Invited to the closing ceremony were Pak Song-chol, vice-president; Hong Song-nam, vice-premier; Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Chung-nin and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea; Chang Chol, vice-premier and minister of culture and art.

Attending there were Pak Myong-chol, chairman of the state Physical Culture and Sports Commission; Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the C.C., the League of Socialist Working youth; Yi Chong-hyok and Chon Kum-chol, vice-chairmen of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee; and others.

Among those present at the closing ceremony were Kanji Inoki, leader of the Japan Sports Peace Party and member of the House of Councillors and president of the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., pro-wrestling strongmen, artistes, tourists, foreigners staying in Korea and Koreans from abroad.

Muhammad Ali, a former world pro-boxing champion from the United States, and other guests of honor from many countries and foreign diplomatic envoys in Pyongyang were present on invitation.

The festival flag was pulled down amidst the playing of the festival song.

After the closing ceremony, Korean artistes gave a performance.

The song and dance "We Live Under the Care of the Leader," legend-based dance "Fairies of Kumgang," the dance "Doves, Fly High" and other pieces left deep impressions on the audience for their high ideological and artistic value.

Kim Chong-il Receives Thanks*SK0305045695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444
GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received letters of thanks from Antonio Inoki, leader of the Japan Sports Peace Party, member of the House of Councillors and president of the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., Ltd., Eric Bishoff, president of the World Pro-Wrestling Championship Organisation, and Atsuko Yuma, head of the U.S. Yuma Cultural Exchange Group, who participated in the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace.

The letter from Antonio Inoki says:

The festival was held in an auspicious month with the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-sung. It is, indeed, of great significance and the greatest honor. I express, from the bottom of my heart, thanks to your excellency the great leader Kim Chong-il for having made a great bold decision and showed loving care so that the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace could be held with signal success in the homeland of Rikidoosan.

He vowed to make all efforts for the promotion of Japan-DPRK friendship.

The letter from Eric Bishoff says:

Your excellency Kim Chong-il have showed a great solicitude and kind care for the pro-wrestling, one of sports events. When back home, I will introduce the unforgettable experiences in Korea and beautiful Pyongyang to broad segments of Americans.

The letter from Atsuko Yuma says:

Korea is, indeed, a wonderful country. We Westerners have a lot of things to learn from Korea, I think.

I sincerely hope that the Korean people under the wise guidance of your excellency the great Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, will

be united as one nation and be engaged in the development of a homogeneous culture.

I will introduce the unforgettable music, dance and art performance given by the Koreans to my friends and many other people.

The letters wish Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

Paper Urges Strengthening of Nonaligned Movement

*SK2904102195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007
GMT 29 Apr 95*

["Strengthening of NAM Called For"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—As was unanimously stressed at the foreign ministers conference of the coordinating bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, it is a very crucial matter now to continue strengthening and developing NAM in conformity with its idea and purpose, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

What is important in strengthening and developing NAM is to strictly adhere to its fundamental principles and nature and maintain its characteristics, the article says, and continues:

Keeping NAM pure is very important in further strengthening and developing it as required by the developments.

NAM should be a crystal of the nations which advocate independence against imperialism and those countries with idea and view different from it should never be allowed to take part in it. What country can be a member of NAM and what capacity it can take part in it with should be decided by whether the country shapes politics agreeable with its basic idea and principles or not, whether it advocates and sympathizes with such politics, or not.

Non-aligned countries must refrain from impeding unity of NAM and categorically reject any attempt to disorganize it. They must form an organization for resolving disputes at an early date so that they may remove by themselves view rifts and disputes among member nations and have a decisive say in resolving disputes with other nations or international organizations.

They must also check and frustrate the imperialists' moves of aggression and war and vigorously struggle for the total elimination of the nuclear weapons.

It is also important to have a unanimous view of NAM on a new international order based on justice, equality and democracy in international relations and execute a common strategy for its establishment.

Cameroon National Assembly Delegation Arrives

*SK0205213495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513
GMT 2 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 2 (KCNA)—A delegation of the National Assembly of Cameroon led by its President Cavaye Yeguie Djibril [name as received] arrived here today at the invitation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was met at the airport by Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the Supreme People's Assembly, Chairperson of the Korea-Cameroon Friendship Parliamentary Group Yi Sun-im and officials concerned.

Attends Reception Given by SPA

*SK0305044895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438
GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Tuesday [2 May] gave a reception for the delegation of the National Assembly of Cameroon led by its President Cavaye Yeguie Djibril [spelling of name as received] at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Addressing the reception, SPA Chairman Yang Hyong-sop said that the delegation's tour of Korea this time will, evidently, be greatly conducive to the development of friendly relations between the two countries, two peoples and two parliaments.

"Now the Cameroonian people are striving to press ahead with the process of democratization of the country and develop the economy with their own efforts under the leadership of respected President Paul Biya," he said. "We highly appreciate it and wish the people of Cameroon success in their work."

"We appreciate and support the Cameroonian people endeavouring for the strengthening and development of the non-aligned movement and establishment of a new international economic order while adhering to independence externally," he said.

President of the Cameroonian National Assembly Cavaye Yeguie Djibril spoke at the reception.

"I was honoured with the audience of his excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader, during my Korean visit in the past."

"He was the greatest man of history in the world, a generous man and a most distinguished statesman," he stressed.

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a country of particular importance in strengthening unity and solidarity between the countries in the southern area," he said. "It is because the DPRK has means of

guaranteeing its prosperity and is shaping its own destiny with creative wisdom, talents and hard struggle of the people."

Noting that both Korea and Cameroon are striving for the common cause and development, he said the Cameroonian people highly appreciate of the efforts of the Korean people for national reunification.

Visits Kim Il-song Statue

SK0305044495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The visiting delegation of the National Assembly of Cameroon led by its President Cavaye Yeguie Djibril [spelling of name as received] on Tuesday [2 May] called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song standing on Mansu Hill to pay homage to him.

The honor guards of the Korean People's Army stood at the statue.

Present there were Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, Chairperson of the Korea-Cameroon Friendship Parliamentary Group Yi Sun-im and Cameroonian Ambassador to Korea Elain-Elle Etian.

Amid the playing of a music a flower basket was laid before the statue of the great leader.

Letters "The great leader Kim Il-song will live forever" were written on the ribbon of the basket.

The guests made a bow before the statue with reverence for the great leader who devoted his whole life to the cause of global independence.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Indian, Syrian Counterparts

SK0305023895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 and 27 April, Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister who participated in the meeting of foreign ministers of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned countries and celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Bandung Conference as the head of our country's delegation, met the foreign ministers of India, Ghana, Nepal, and Syria.

In the meetings, our country's foreign minister asked the foreign ministers to convey greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to the heads of relevant countries. The foreign ministers expressed deep gratitude for this and asked our country's foreign minister to convey heartfelt greetings from the heads of the respective countries to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Indian foreign minister said: We are well aware of the great contributions of His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader, to the struggle for the Korean

people's freedom and happiness as well as for the world people's freedom and liberation. His Excellency President Kim Il-song was a great figure who received boundless respect and admiration from the Indian people and was a symbol who gave hope to the people who were suffering from exploitation and suppression. Therefore, it was a matter of course that the Indian Government and people expressed their deep condolence and carried out various mourning events in India upon receiving the sad news that he had suddenly passed away. We firmly believe that the Korean people will endlessly consummate the historic cause pioneered by the great leader President Kim Il-song under the leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja]. The relations between India and Korea are excellent, and the two countries have shared the same opinion in various international arenas. We will work to develop such cooperative relations in the future. Korea is making a positive contribution to the development of the nonaligned movement as well as the relations between India and Korea.

The Ghanaian foreign minister said: In your country, the question of leadership inheritance has been brilliantly solved because His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the dear leader, is wisely leading the overall works of the party, the state, and military. We see Korea as the most brilliant vanguard country. Such being the case, the stability of politics in Korea is greatly encouraging to us. We watch all the developments achieved in Korea with keen interest. We take this opportunity to express deep condolence over the death of His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader. We hope His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the dear leader who is your country's great leader [yongdoja], will lead the Korean people to brilliant victory and glory. Ghana will invariably remain a friend of your country. We extend the greetings wishing long life to His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader.

In the meantime, the Nepalese vice minister, and foreign and defense minister said the following: We once again express deep condolence over the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. We can never forget the reception offered by the great leader during our stay in Korea. Even though the great leader passed away, the overall works of the party and the state are triumphantly carry out in Korea under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Syrian foreign minister said as follows: President Hafiz Al Asad is unable to forget His Excellency President Kim Il-song, his close friend. His excellency the respected president will always live in our president's heart. The Syrian party, government, and people share the sorrow with the Korean people over the death of His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader, and we are pleased over the fact that His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the respected leader, is wisely leading the overall works of the party, the state, and military. The Syrian party, government, and people will firmly share the destiny with the Korean leadership and people under whatever circumstances.

In the meantime, on 23 April, our country's foreign minister inspected the museum of the Bandung Asia-Africa Conference, which the great leader and the dear comrade leader had inspected.

On 28 April, he attended the non-aligned countries' modern arts exhibition which was held in Jakarta on the 40th anniversary of the Bandung Conference.

Meets Indonesian Counterpart

*SK0105104095 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] From 23 to 25 April, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, head of the DPRK delegation—who participated in the meeting of foreign ministers of the mediation committee of the nonaligned countries, as well as in the commemorative ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary of Bandung meeting—met with foreign ministers from Iran, Colombia, Cambodia, Maldives, Angola, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Vietnam, and Mongolia, as well as former Zimbabwean foreign minister and Lao vice foreign minister, who are delegation heads.

During the meeting, the head of our country's delegation asked the heads of delegations of the other countries to convey greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the heads of states concerned. Expressing a deep appreciation for his greetings, the heads of the delegations asked the head of our country's delegation to convey the greetings from the state heads of their countries to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Matters of mutual concern were discussed during the meetings. Prior to this, on 21 April, our country's foreign minister paid a courtesy visit to the Indonesian foreign minister. During the meeting, the Indonesian foreign minister spoke as follows: We cannot repress the great sorrow to hear about the sudden death of His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader. His Excellency President Kim Il-song made a great contribution to the development of the Asian countries, as well as the nonaligned countries. The death of his excellency president is a loss of a great leader in Asia and the Nonaligned Movement. With a feeling of loss like the one that the Korean people suffer, the Indonesian people fully understand their pains. We are pleased to hear that his excellency supreme leader Kim Chong-il, who is exactly equal to His Excellency President Kim Il-song, is wisely leading the Korean people. We are convinced that friendly relations between Indonesia and Korea will be further strengthened under the leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader.

Ambassador Pays Call on Congolese Party Leader

*SK0305011295 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 30 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 20 April, our country's Ambassador Cha Chong-ung paid a farewell call on (Leon Lesokeni), general secretary of the Congolese Socialist Party.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to the general secretary. The general secretary expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings, wishing a long life to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The general secretary said: "The Congolese Socialist Party fervently admires the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as a guiding star and regards Korea as a beacon of hope. The friendly relations between the two parties have been developed on favorable terms. In the future, our party will invariably support Korea's proposal on establishing a new peace system and reunifying Korea with a confederal system, as well as all other policies of the Workers Party of Korea."

Botswana President Refers to Friendly Relations

*SK0305014195 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 1 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Ung-sang, new DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, presented his credentials to Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire on 20 April.

At the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Sir Ketumile Masire.

The president expressed deep gratitude for this, and asked the ambassador to convey to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il warm greetings from himself and the government and people of Botswana.

The president expressed once again deep condolences on the passing of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, saying: President Kim Il-song made your country a great country admired by the world. Among the immortal achievements he made, in particular, was that he provided a bright prospective for Korean reunification. This is why the people of your country miss the great president so much.

Masire referred to the smooth development of the friendly relations between the two countries, and expressed support for and solidarity with our people's cause of national reunification.

Masire said: The Botswana Government is pleased that a new prospect has been opened for the peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and appreciates the efforts of your government toward it.

Ambassador Pays Call on Mauritanian Party Leader

*SK3004015995 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 26 Apr 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 April, our country's ambassador Pak Ho-il paid a courtesy call on (Blau Ol

Mogey), general secretary of the Mauritanian Democratic and Social Republican Party.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to the general secretary. The general secretary expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The general secretary said he does not forget the fact that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sincerely helped Mauritania in the past. He said he will actively strive to develop friendly relations in conformity with the interests of the two parties and peoples.

Foreign Tourists Visit International Exhibition

SK0305121995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The International Friendship Exhibition in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is now being visited by many foreign tourists.

After visiting it, they are unanimous in saying that it is a treasurehouse without an equal in the world, a treasurehouse of humankind reflecting deep reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Located in Mt. Myohyang, one of the five most famous mountains of Korea, it houses more than 105,000 pieces of gifts sent to them by world people.

Among them are more than 4,000 pieces sent to President Kim Il-song by heads of state of 99 countries.

Of the exhibits, more than 30,000 pieces were sent to Comrade Kim Chong-il by party and state leaders, heads of government and prominent political and public figures of a hundred and scores of countries.

The visitors can feel deep reverence of humankind for the two great men in such gifts as gold and silver articles of exquisite workmanship, handicraft works, various kinds of valuables, rare medicines, clothes, pieces of furniture, animal stuffings, silk banners and congratulatory messages.

Among such gifts are an ivory carving made by many talented craftsmen on a nationwide scale, 3,500-year-old ceramic oil bottle and oil-lamp container of ancient Greece and a 500-year-old firelock. All the gifts were manufactured with utmost care, reflecting the respect of all the people for President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il praised as the sun of chuche or had been handed down as national and family treasures.

The valuable gifts are exhibited, divided into continents and countries.

The International Friendship Exhibition, which was opened on August 26, 1978, is a wonderful Korean-style building of six stories.

Its floor space is over 28,000 square metres.

Shaped like a wooden building, the exhibition was built with no wood. And it seems as if the exhibition has many windows. But it has no window.

It is equipped with automatic light, temperature and humidity controllers.

Cuban Minister Sends Message to Kim Chong-il

SK0305011495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, sent a congratulatory message to the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people Comrade Kim Chong-il on the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

The congratulatory message follows:

Pyongyang:

To Marshal Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Committee and supreme commander of the KPA:

Respected Marshal Comrade Kim Chong-il:

On the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the KPA, I extend the warmest congratulations to you and the soldiers of your country in the name of the combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba and of myself.

Availing myself of this meaningful occasion, I once again express the conviction that the indestructible friendship that exists between the DPRK and the Cuban people and Army will also continue to wonderfully develop in the future.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il:

I wish you greater success in your highly responsible work and also wish you good health, long life, and happiness.

With brotherly regards.

[Signed] General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba
[Dated] 25 April, 1995, Havana

Kim Chong-il's Work Carried by Foreign Papers

SK2904051395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—"Socialism Is a Science", a famous work of

the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was carried by the Indian paper RASHTRACHAYA.

Printed in the paper is a portrait of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The paper said in the preface:

After His Excellency Kim Il-song, a great revolutionary fighter of the present century and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which is the most powerful country, passed away, His Excellency Kim Chong-il, who is the successor to him, has led Korea.

Although socialism has been frustrated in different countries, His Excellency Kim Chong-il, who has successfully embodied the chuche idea, said that scientific socialism is alive as ever in the minds of the people.

Today, the vitality of socialism is being displayed more fully with each passing day and socialism has become the beacon of the progressive humankind.

The Indian paper TAJ TIMES, the Russian paper TRUDOVAYA RUSSIA, the Syrian paper AL USUBUU AL RIADH, too, carried the work.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Soldiers, Workers

SK2904051495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446
GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to an officer Yi Kwang-chol and servicemen of the Chong Song-sil unit of the Korean People's Army (KPA), commanding officers of the Kim Yol-mo unit of the Korean Border Garrison and their family members, servicemen of the Pak Choi-hak unit of the KPA and an officer Chang Chae-ho of the Yi Chi-hun unit of the KPA for giving full play to the traditional trait of Army-people unity.

Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to Chang Chun-sok, a journalist of the Kum Song Youth Publishing House, Chon Kyong-sun living in Yokjondong No. 1, Songchong-gang district in Hamhung City of South Hamgyong Province, and Song Yong-kil, an actor of the state national art troupe, who did good things for society and the collective.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gift to Pyongyang School

SK2904052795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455
GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent an immersed sample of shark and stuffed specimens of birds inhabiting Korea and other countries to Pyongyang Primary School No. 4.

Comrade Kim Chong-il had sent the school more than 1,100 pieces of educational aids and experimental apparatuses including stuffings and musical instruments on

dozens of occasions so that the material and technical foundations of the school could be cemented and the educational work conducted in a creditable manner.

At a gift-conveying meeting, speakers evinced their determination to make big success in the education and study bearing deep in mind the solicitude of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Need To Exalt Kim Chong-il's 'Feats' Stressed

SK0105100495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809
GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] in the calls published on April 30 on the 50th anniversary of its founding stresses the need to boundlessly exalt the imperishable revolutionary feats performed by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in all domains of the revolution and construction.

The calls read:

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great statesman, a great strategist and an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, who is leading our party, people and revolutionary Armed Forces to a victory with the outstanding ideas and leadership ability.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song means the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the latter means our party.

Let us remain unfailingly loyal to the idea and guidance of the leader, remembering that we are blessed with sagacious leaders generation after generation!

Let us firmly defend Comrade Kim Chong-il politically and ideologically and with our lives, being aware that as guided by the great leader, our country and nation has a bright future!

Let us absolutize and defend in every way the high authority of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il who is exalting the honor of our party, the dignity of the country of chuche!

Let us firmly take the idea and theory of the great Comrade Kim Chong-il as the eternal lifeline of our party and revolution!

Let us become true loyal subjects deeply trusting and following only Comrade Kim Chong-il with a single heart!

Let us follow in the wake of Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has noble morality and obligation toward the leader of the revolution and boundless love and devotion for the people!

Let us become eternal companions of our party in the long march of the revolution, with iron will and a firm belief that we will win, guided by the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il!

Japan, PRC Tourists Visit Kim Il-song Statue

*SK0305044395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425
GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The tourist group of the International Travel Corporation of China, tourist groups from Japan, tourist groups of foreigners in China and the 2nd tourist group from Taiwan called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song standing on Mansu Hill and paid homage to him.

They laid bouquets of flowers before the statue of President Kim Il-song and made a bow.

Foreign Media Commemorate Kim Il-song Birthday

*SK2904102895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013
GMT 29 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—Mass media of different countries edited special write-ups on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The Nepalese paper JANMABHUMI April 15 carried an article titled "Great Life" written by Bikenewa [spelling of name as received], political commentator of the paper, together with a portrait of President Kim Il-song.

In his article the author said:

"President Kim Il-song's life is a brilliant life of the greatest leader of the people in the Korean history of 5,000 years.

"His august name is carved in history. It is a great fortune which not only Korea but the world should keep and glorify generation after generation.

"The greatness of President Kim Il-song is that he is the only leader of the people in the world who shared sweets and bitters with them, finding himself in their hearts.

"It is hard for the world to greet such a leader in several centuries. Therefore this century will be the most brilliant for having him.

"Every April 15 will be commemorated as a traditional day encouraging humankind in the future, too."

Articles were carried by the papers of Pakistan MASHRIQ, JANG, HURMAT, NAIDA-I-WAQT, DAWN, SANGEIL, PAKISTAN OBSERVER and the NEWS, the Singaporean paper STRAITS TIMES, the Thai papers SIN CHONG YUAN PAO, XING SAM RIBAO and CHINESE DAILY NEWS, the Iranian paper TEHERAN TIMES, the Syrian paper AL SAURA, the Russian paper SEGODNYA, the Yugoslav paper VECERNJE NOVOSTI, the Egyptian paper AL-SIYASI, an Ethiopian paper, the Guyanese paper NEW NATION, the Guinean paper HOROYA, the Peruvian papers EL MATUTINO and EL PERUANO, and the Palestinian magazine PALESTINE AL SAURA.

The Chinese Central People's Broadcasting Station, TV stations of Cambodia, Indonesia of Peru, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and Nigeria, the 7th State TV Station, the AKP News Agency of Cambodia, the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation, Radio People of Denmark observed April 15.

Famous Works of Kim Il-song Disseminated Abroad

*SK0305044695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430
GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—Famous works of the great leader President Kim Il-song are studied and disseminated in different countries.

A joint seminar of the organisations for the study of the Chuche idea on the famous work of President Kim Il-song "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" took place in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Speakers said the life of his excellency respected President Kim Il-song is the life of an outstanding thinker and theorist and a great leader who founded the chuche idea and made an immortal contribution to the cause for liberation of humankind, upholding the banner of socialism, the banner of anti-imperialism and independence.

They stressed the work "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" published by President Kim Il-song is a great banner for unity of the Korean nation and peaceful reunification.

Seminars on the same work were held by the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of the Commercial College of Uganda, the Group for the Study of the Great Kimil-songism of Teachers of Higher Middle School of Kampala of Uganda, the Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Comrade Kim Il-song in Copenhagen of Denmark and the Lome, Togo, Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea.

A seminar on the work "Theses on Socialist Education" took place in the Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea.

Seminar on Kim Il-song's Work Held in Nepal

*SK0205133695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046
GMT 2 May 95*

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 2 (KCNA)—A seminar on the famous work of the great leader President Kim Il-song "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" took place in Kathmandu on April 7, under the co-sponsorship of the Nepal Institute for Chuche Studies and the International Study Center for Chuche-Oriented Mass Media in Nepal.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is the most reasonable and realistic programme for reunification which is acceptable to anybody who wants reunification irrespective of the differences of political view and religious belief, idea, ideology and system, Chairman of the Institute Manik Lal Shrestha in his speech said, adding:

"The people of Nepal fully support the programme for reunification and the reunification of Korea should be realised according to the programme".

Beni Bahadur Karki, chairman of the National Council of Nepal, said in his speech that the reunification of Korea must be realised in an independent and peaceful way without fail according to the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and the Nepalese people will stand by the Korean people fighting to achieve the reunification of the country and invariably support the cause of the independent peaceful reunification of Korea.

The 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation is a great programme and the only way for the reunification of Korea, Narayan Man Bijukchhe, chairman of the Nepal Worker-Peasant Party and member of parliament, said in his speech, adding:

"South Korean authorities must accept the fair and realistic programme unconditionally."

Anniversary of Kim Il-song Work Commemorated

SK2904105295 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1042
GMT 29 Apr 95

["Famous Work Which Brought Turn in Party Guidance in Activities of Working People's Organizations"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a by-lined article upon the lapse of ten years since the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published the famous work "On Strengthening Party Guidance in the Activities of the Working People's Organizations" on April 30, 1985.

The article says:

In the work the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a comprehensive exposition of the principled questions arising in strengthening the party guidance of the party organizations over the activities of the working people's organizations such as making the working people's organizations unfailingly loyal to the party's leadership, guiding them to properly fulfil their duty and increasing their independence.

The ten years after the publication of the work are a proud decade in which the all-level party organizations including the county party committees have strengthened party guidance and policy guidance over the activities of the working people's organizations, thus considerably enhancing their mission and role and consolidating the mass foundations of our party.

The great vitality of the work finds its expression, first of all, in that it has made it possible for the party organizations to strengthen party guidance over the activities of the working people's organizations and make them infinitely faithful to the leadership of the party.

The great vitality of the work, which has served as the guideline in the efforts for strengthening party guidance over the activities of the working people's organizations, finds another expression in that it has enabled the party organizations to prepare all the members of the working people's organizations to be true revolutionaries boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader by implementing our party's policy of ideological revolution.

The members of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and all other working people's organizations are now resolved to make the revolution to the end under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il and deem it the greatest pride to devote their all to the party and the revolution, to the country and the people.

The great vitality of the work has been clearly proved also by the fact that it has made the party organizations encourage the working people's organizations to invigorate the organizational and political work for arousing their members in socialist construction.

Leaders, Workers Mark May Day Throughout Nation

SK0105235795 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean* 2100 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The working class and workers in various places across the country meaningfully marked May Day, an international festive day of workers around the world, with great dignity and pride in enjoying to their heart's content an independent and creative life under our own style of socialism centered around the popular masses.

On that festive day, Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution; seats of regional provinces, cities, streets, and plants; and enterprises were festooned with picture boards displaying the fighting spirit and mettle of our working class, banners, and flowers as well as with slogans such as "Long live May Day, an international festive day of the workers around the entire world!" "Let us usher in the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea with high political enthusiasm and brilliant labor success!" and "Congratulations on May Day!"

Comrade Yi Chong-ok; Comrade Pak Song-chol; Comrade Chon Pyong-ho; Comrade Han Song-yong; Comrade So Yun-sok; Comrade Kim Chol-man; Comrade Choe Yong-nim; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk; Comrade Kim Chung-nin; Comrade So Kwan-hui; Comrade Kim Hwan; Comrade Kim Pok-sin; Comrade Kim Yun-hyok; Comrade Yun Ki-pok; Comrade Pak Nam-ki; Comrade Chon Mun-sop; and cadres of the party and

government, including the chairmen of commissions and ministers of the Administration Council, went to plants and enterprises in various locations yesterday and offered congratulations and encouragement to the working class and workers there. [passage omitted]

Foreign Policy of Government, WPK Expounded

SK0305140495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 3 May 95

["Victorious Idea of Independence, Peace and Friendship"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—The idea of independence, peace and friendship maintained by the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the DPRK Government in foreign policy, which was reclarified in the calls of the WPK Central Committee published on its 50th foundation anniversary, is fully demonstrating its validity and vitality in practice.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a by-lined article today.

"The idea of independence, peace and friendship advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," the paper stresses, "is a revolutionary idea of foreign policy which makes it possible to defend and add lustre to Korean style socialism centred on the popular masses, and it is a noble idea common to humankind which enables the world's people to make a genuine contribution to strengthening international solidarity and accomplishing the cause of global independence."

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led the work to firmly maintain and carry into practice the WPK's idea of foreign policy put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, even under the complicated situation, it notes, and goes on:

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is firmly maintaining independence in its foreign relations.

The DPRK Government solves all matters arising in foreign relations in the interest of the Korean people and on its independent decision and judgement.

We never tolerate any infringement upon our sovereignty and upon the national dignity, even if it is trifling, but take a due counterattack. In the international arena, too, we raise our just voice without pleasing other's humour and reading other's face.

The idea of peace is an essential demand proceeding from the nature of our socialist system.

The DPRK has been making all sincere efforts to ensure a durable peace in the Korean peninsula.

It is entirely thanks to its peaceloving stand that a war has not broken out in the Korean peninsula even under the badly tense situation.

In the idea of friendship the DPRK Government directs primary attention to developing friendly relations with the socialist, non-aligned and other progressive countries of the world and establishes friendly relations and also develops economic and cultural exchange with capitalist countries which are friendly towards us.

WPK Meeting Held at Film Studio 26 Apr

SK2904015895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting to deliver thanks from the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] to the creators and artists of the 26 April Production Group under the Scientific and Educational Film Studio who have achieved a great success in implementing the revolutionary duties entrusted by the party was held today [26 April] on the spot.

Present at the meeting were Comrade Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art; functionaries concerned; and employees of the film studio.

In the meeting, Comrade Kim Ki-nam delivered thanks from the WPK Central Committee to the creators and artists of the 26 April Production Group under the Scientific and Educational Film Studio.

In the meeting, Choe Chae-hyon, director of the film studio, made a report. After this, a discussion by Yi Won-taek, head of the production group; director Kim Yong-chan; and vice director Pak Kwang-hyok took place.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our leader, was adopted in the meeting.

WPK CC Publishes Calls Supporting Military

SK0105095195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] in the calls published on April 30 on the 50th anniversary of its founding stresses the need to thoroughly implement the military line of our party on making the whole Army a cadre army, modernizing the whole Army, arming the entire people and fortifying the whole country.

The leadership of respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is the life and soul of the People's Army, the calls note. The calls lay emphasis on upholding his leadership with loyalty, true to the intention of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The calls appeal to all the officers and men of the People's Army as follows:

Let us become fortresses and shields upholding the party with arms and defending our revolutionary cause with arms!

All the soldiers must become rifles and bombs to defend the respected supreme commander with their lives!

Let us devote our lives to defending respected Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il!

The calls lay emphasis on making full combat preparations of the People's Army, true to the behests of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

They stress that the political and military might of the People's Army should be strengthened in every way to defend our territory, our airspace and our waters like an impregnable fortress.

Noting that the trait of attaching importance to the military affairs should be established all over society to firmly build an all-people, all-state defense system, the calls say that the entire people should sincerely learn military affairs and make the whole country covered with forests of rifles and bayonets in case of emergency.

They note:

Let the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards make combat preparations and strengthen combat and political training in an alert preparedness!

Let us watch with great vigilance the new war provocation manoeuvres of the imperialists and their stooges and smash them at every step!

'Mangyongdae Prize' Games Close 2 May

SK0305131495 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031*
GMT 3 May 95

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—“Mangyongdae Prize” games which opened early in April closed on May 2.

The games take place every year to mark the birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Sportsmen of the Pyongyang City Sports Group, the April 25 Sports Group, the Amnokgang Sports Group and other groups competed in more than 60 events including track and field, football, basketball, gymnastics, wrestling and shooting held for a month.

They fully displayed the sporting skills they had cultivated before and many of them bettered the records in categories.

Han Yon-hui and Kim Chun-hwa, sportswomen of the Sosong District Sports Group of Pyongyang, bettered the world records in short-track speed skating 1,500 metres and Chong Yong-won of the Defence Sports Group broke the world record in 10m running game shooting.

Kim Il-sin and Kim Yong-kyu of the sports group of the Pyongyang Railway Administration and Han Sang-kuk of the sports team of the State Commission of Materials Supply broke the Asian records in short-track speed skating 3,000 metres.

Tens of sportsmen renewed the national records in various events.

Progress of Expansion of Najin Port Reported

SK2904104595 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027*
GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—An expansion work on the Najin Port in the Najin-Sonbong Free Economic and Trade Zone, a “golden triangular zone” of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been progressing at full throttle.

The project to turn jetty No. 7 of wharf No. 2 into a steel quay with an annual traffic capacity of 2 million tons is going on in full scale.

The work to double the capacity of loading and unloading facilities along the section of several hundred metres is at the finishing stage.

The project to reconstruct jetty No. 8 of wharf No. 2 into a transit container quay with an annual traffic capacity of 500,000 tons has gotten into full swing.

Roadbed work for a Goliath crane capable of loading and unloading above 40-ton containers has been completed and the laying of heavy rails is now under way.

Construction of an open storage ground covering 20,000 square metres has been completed.

The project to convert jetty No. 9 of wharf No. 3 into a quay dealing with coal and timber has been going on.

The project aims at increasing the loading and unloading capacity three times.

Wharf No. 4 is under construction.

Now the builders are sinking 2.5 million cubic metres of stones.

When wharf No. 4 is completed, three 50,000 ton ships can be accepted at a time.

Many companies and corporations of different countries are showing their will of investment with close attention to the construction of wharf No. 4.

The Najin Port will be built into a port with an annual transit capacity of 15 million tons in a few years and will be expanded further in the future.

Arch of Triumph Monument in Pyongyang Described

SK2904103495 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022*
GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 29 (KCNA)—The Arch of Triumph, one of the monumental edifices of the era of the Workers' Party, is

erected in the centre of Kaeson Square at the foot of beautiful Moran Hill, Pyongyang.

The square is a significant place where the great leader President Kim Il-song, who returned to Pyongyang after leading the 20-year-long anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory and accomplishing the cause of national liberation, had the first meeting with people and made his historical speech on triumphal return (October 14, 1945).

The Korean people built it on the 70th birth anniversary of President Kim Il-song, reflecting their ardent desire to glorify forever his immortal revolutionary exploits. It was built as a world excellent monument in a short period of less than two years after its beginning.

It was erected with more than 15,000 well-cut pieces of granite. It consists of four square pillars standing on the four foundations, archways between the pillars and the three-tiered roof with a balcony.

It is 60 metres high, 50.1 metres long and 36.2 metres wide.

The gateway of the arch is 27 metres high and 18.6 metres wide and is framed with 70 azalea reliefs, which symbolize the 70th birthday of President Kim Il-song.

Inscribed in golden letters on its front and back faces are "1925-1945" covering the period from the time when President Kim Il-song set out on the revolutionary road for national liberation to the time when he returned home in triumph after achieving it. Below them are four groups of bronze sculptures.

"Song of General Kim Il-song", the immortal revolutionary song, is inscribed on the front and back walls between the balcony and the roof and Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of revolution, on the side walls.

All this reflects the firm conviction and will of the Korean people to vigorously struggle to the end for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of *chuche* started by President Kim Il-song.

Paper Stresses Importance of Party Work

SK0305105695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 3 May 95

["Highly Important Guideline For Improving Party Work"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA)—Twenty years have passed since the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published the famous work "On Firmly Building Up the Revolutionary Forces and Further Improving and Strengthening the Party Work in Conformity With the Requirement of the Present Situation" on May 2, 1975.

Expounded in the work are questions of firmly preparing the internal revolutionary forces of Korea politically and

materially, improving the method and style of party work and establishing a revolutionary way of life in the whole society.

The important idea of the work is that party work must be fundamentally improved to strengthen the party and the revolutionary ranks and press ahead with socialist construction.

NODONG SINMUN in an article today says that the work is a highly important work which clearly indicated important questions of principle arising in improving party work in keeping with the requirement of the cause of modelling the whole society on the *chuche* idea.

The paper further says:

The validity of the idea and theory expounded in the work has been fully confirmed in the building and activities of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and socialist construction over the past 20 years, and it is demonstrating a great vitality with each passing day.

The work has made it possible to develop the WPK into an invincible party which forms a harmonious whole with the masses and accomplish great victory and achievements in socialist construction by strengthening party guidance in economic construction.

It has also brought about a great change in the work of improving the method and style of work of party officials in a revolutionary way.

Daily Stresses Unity, Solidarity in Socialism

SK0105130995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0932 GMT 1 May 95

["International Holiday Demonstrating Unity and Solidarity of Working Class"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 1 (KCNA)—As long as there are the great party and people infinitely faithful to the revolutionary cause of the international working class, the song of unity and solidarity will as ever ring out loudly in our revolution, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

In an editorial dedicated to the May Day, the revolutionary holiday of the international working class, the paper says unity is strength and only when international unity and solidarity are strengthened, will it be possible to powerfully push ahead with the cause of the world revolution.

The paper notes:

It is a great feat performed by our party and people in the struggle for cementing the unity of the international revolutionary forces that they have invigorated this struggle from a new angle on the basis of the idea of socialism.

Unity and solidarity apart from the idea of socialism cannot be genuine revolutionary unity and solidarity.

It is very important to strengthen solidarity on the basis of the same idea and aspiration for defending the cause of socialism with concerted efforts at a time when the imperialists are further intensifying the anti-socialist moves than ever before.

It was under the guidance of the greatest leaders of our age that our party and people could make a distinguished contribution to the international cause of the working class in the past.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song set the slogan "the World People Advocating Independence, Let Us Unite!" and indicated a way of strengthening genuine international unity and solidarity. And he devoted himself to the international cause of the working class under the banner of unity to the last moments of his great life.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is an outstanding leader of the socialist cause in our age who is unfailingly loyal and devoted to the revolutionary cause of the working class, steadfastly adhering to the principles.

The practical experience of our revolution has clearly shown that only the people guided by a peerless great man respected by all the revolutionary people can be a proud people who actively contribute to the noble cause of the international working class for unity.

Our party will as ever make every possible effort to defend and advance the cause of socialism with concerted efforts in close unity with all the revolutionary parties and progressive people of the world on the basis of the Pyongyang Declaration.

We will strive to develop friendly relations with all the countries which respect the sovereignty of our country and take a friendly attitude towards our country, on the principle of equality and mutual benefits and to achieve a durable peace of the world.

Our people, who have always been faithful to their internationalist duty will, in the future, too, extend unstinted support and solidarity for peoples of different countries in their struggle against all manner of aggression, interference, domination and subjugation and for national independence, sovereignty and the building of a new life.

South Korea

'Exclusive' Interview With Ambassador Gallucci

SK0305090495 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
3 May 95 pp 1, 6

["Exclusive" interview with Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs, by Washington-based correspondent Chin Chang-uk at the ambassador's office on the sixth floor of the U.S. Department of State building in Washington, D.C. on the afternoon of 1 May—first five paragraphs are CHUNGANG ILBO's introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Robert Gallucci, nuclear ambassador [title as published] of the U.S. Department of State, confirmed on 1 May that his country would adhere to the basic principle on adopting the ROK-style light-water reactors and on the ROK's central role in the Korea Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) in the North Korea-U.S. high-level talks on the supply of light-water reactors to North Korea which will be held in Geneva early this month, and added that his country would make no concessions to North Korea on this.

In an exclusive interview with the CHUNGANG ILBO conducted at his office on the sixth floor of the U.S. Department of State building in Washington, D.C. on the afternoon of 1 May, Ambassador Gallucci resolutely stressed the principles in the adoption of ROK-style light-water reactors, and made his position clear: If such a principle is not met at the upcoming high-level talks as well, we will interpret this as meaning that North Korea has abrogated the Geneva agreement, and will immediately take measures to impose sanctions against North Korea. In particular, Ambassador Gallucci reaffirmed that, in case North Korea reneges on the freeze of its nuclear facilities, the United States would not hold back in taking hard-line measures against North Korea, even though it may cause a crisis situation which may lead to war on the Korean peninsula, similar to the one created in June 1994 by the U.S.-initiated efforts to have the United Nations Security Council impose sanctions against North Korea.

Ambassador Gallucci said that he would make no concessions on the main principles that the ROK is to design, manufacture, and build the light-water reactors that are to be adopted, on the ROK's bearing of the financial burden, and on the ROK's central role in KEDO. He hinted, however, that there is some room for compromise with regard to his country's negotiations with North Korea, by saying: If a breakthrough can be effected through the selection and use of words that North Korea "can accept politically," we will agree to pursue such a thing.

Ambassador Gallucci also said that KEDO was established to lessen North Korea's political burden, and that it would not be impossible for North Korea to accept ROK-style light-water reactors if North Korea's top leadership were to make a political decision.

Ambassador Gallucci emphasized that at the North-U.S. high-level talks that are to be held in Geneva early this month, the United States would seek the accomplishment of the principle on the adoption of ROK-style light-water reactors to be supplied to North Korea and on the ROK's central role at KEDO. Ambassador Gallucci stressed that such a stance of the United States is not mere diplomatic rhetoric, but an expression of the U.S.' resolute will. Questions and answers from the interview follows:

[Chin Chang-uk] When the expert-level talks in Berlin ended in failure, the United States proposed that high-level talks be held in Geneva. What was the reason for the suggestion of such high-level talks?

[Robert Gallucci] The United States proposed that high-level talks be held in Geneva, because the expert-level talks in Berlin failed to solve difficult problems. If the Berlin talks had succeeded, there would be no reason for us to go to Geneva.

Another reason that the United States proposed the Geneva talks is that the ROK and Japan, and especially President Kim Yong-sam, share the view that the Geneva agreement is beneficial to all—the ROK, the United States, and Japan. The Geneva agreement is an agreement worth keeping. If there is a problem in implementing the Geneva agreement, it is necessary to remove obstacles hindering its implementation. The United States should find ways to solve the problems. With the failure in the Berlin expert-level talks, there is no other choice but to hold high-level talks.

[Chin] If there is no change in the positions of North Korea and the United States in regard to the reactors, it appears clear that the Geneva talks will also fail. Is this then an indication that the United States is willing to make concessions in Geneva?

[Gallucci] The United States will adhere to the basic principles related to North Korea's nuclear issue at the Geneva talks. The United States has repeatedly stressed such a stance. In particular, this principle is that the ROK will take charge of designing, manufacturing, building, and raising funds for the light-water reactors, and will play a central role in KEDO. There is no change in this U.S. stance.

The United States believes that there still is a way to solve relevant issues in a way which is acceptable to North Korea. In failing to resolve these issues, it is natural for the parties concerned who can resolve such issues, to hold face-to-face talks. Therefore, the United States decided to go to Geneva.

[Chin] Could you elaborate on what you mean by your remarks that there still is a way to resolve the issue?

[Gallucci] The unchanged principle maintained by the United States is to have the ROK play a central role, to select the Korean Electric Power Corporation as the principal contractor, and to adhere to the ROK-style light-water reactors. If there is a way to supply the light-water reactors in a manner which is politically acceptable to North Korea and the ROK Government is willing to accept this method, however, the U.S. Government will push for the selection and use of the appropriate words in the process of supplying such light-water reactors.

[Chin] Is this in the same context as the remarks made by Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he said that "If there is a problem concerning the words used in

connection with the negotiations over the light-water reactors, it will not be impossible to solve such a problem"?

[Gallucci] That is right. But, there is an important factor in Secretary Christopher's remarks—that is the word "if." "If" the question that needs to be solved is a more fundamental one, and "if" North Korea does not accept ROK-style light-water reactors, this question will never be solved.

[Chin] It has been learned that some officials at the U.S. Department of State are hoping that the ROK Government will make additional concessions with a view to effecting a breakthrough in the deadlocked negotiations over the supply of light-water reactors for North Korea. Mr. Ambassador, do you also feel that it is necessary for the ROK to make additional concessions?

[Gallucci] I cannot agree with those who say that the United States hopes that the ROK will make additional concessions. Close consultations between the ROK and the United States need to be maintained, whether it concerns the issue of light-water reactors or liaison offices. All requests made by North Korea in the process of negotiations with the United States thus far, have been aimed at splitting up relations between the ROK and the United States. Accordingly, the primary goal which the two countries of the ROK and the United States should pursue, is to let North Korea know that such artifice cannot succeed. Everybody is satisfied not only with the contents, but also with how the ROK-U.S.-Japanese negotiations have proceeded. Such negotiations are real negotiations.

[Chin] Last year when the agreement was reached in Geneva, you said that Vice Minister Kang Sok-chu was sufficiently aware of the ROK-style reactors. If this is true, do you feel betrayed by Vice Minister Kang?

[Gallucci] I will not discuss my personal feelings toward Vice Minister Kang, who is my counterpart in negotiations. I can clearly say, however, that Vice Minister Kang was made fully aware of the fact that ROK-style light-water reactors would be supplied to North Korea at the Geneva talks. The attitude now being shown by North Korea, which agreed to ROK-style reactors at the Geneva talks, completely lacks consistency.

[Chin] If North Korea had known that ROK-style light-water reactors would be supplied, why then, did they not ask about its price?

[Gallucci] In October 1994, when the agreement was reached in Geneva, the United States realized that North Korea shouldered a political burden in terms of accepting the ROK-style light-water reactors, and we believe that this is still the case. Therefore, the United States decided to seek a method for North Korea to politically accept the ROK-style reactors. This was KEDO. KEDO was established to solve the question concerning the ROK-style light-water reactors. It is

aimed at providing North Korea with justification for accepting the light-water reactors.

[Chin] What will be your response to North Korea, if there is no progress in the future high-level talks and if North Korea reneges on the freeze of its nuclear facilities?

[Gallucci] The United States has already made clear its position on what actions it will take if North Korea breaks its promise concerning the freeze of its nuclear facilities. In such an event, the United States will, first of all, hold negotiations with the ROK and Japan. The three countries will, in concert with each other, bring North Korea's nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council where they will push for the implementation of sanctions against North Korea.

Secretary Christopher and Secretary of Defense William Perry have made clear that in the event that North Korea reneges on the freeze of its nuclear facilities, the United States will work in conjunction with its allies in dealing with this issue. If this issue is referred to the Security Council, the United States will cooperate with its allies in taking immediate action.

Here is one point that North Korea should clearly understand: North Korea should clearly understand that the United States is now making efforts to solve North Korea's nuclear issue through negotiations because the United States is trying to avoid putting into action the necessary measures should the negotiations fail.

U.S. Official's Remarks on Liaison Office Noted
SK0305063695 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
3 May 95 p 1

[By correspondent Kim Yong-il from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thomas Hubbard, deputy assistant secretary of state in charge of East Asia and Pacific affairs, hinted on 1 May that apart from the deadlock in the issue of providing light-water reactors to North Korea, plans are being implemented to set up liaison offices in Washington and Pyongyang in the near future.

While participating in the "Symposium on the Korean Peninsula Issue," hosted by the ROK Council of Churches in Washington that day, Mr. Hubbard said: "The issue of opening liaison offices between the DPRK and the United States is not directly linked with matters on implementing the Geneva agreement such as South-North dialogue and the issue of providing North Korea with light-water reactors. We are prepared to open the liaison offices as soon as the 'technical problem' is solved."

Mr. Hubbard did not give details on the technical problem, but his remark is the focus of attention because they directly run counter to the ROK Government's position of linking North Korea's nuclear issue with the issue of improving DPRK-U.S. relations.

UNCMAC, Korean People's Army Meet at Panmunjom

SK0305053495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT
3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—Officers of the UN Command's [UNC] component of the Korean Military Armistice Commission (MAC) met with officers of the North Korean People's Army (KPA) at the truce village of Panmunjom Wednesday [3 May] morning, a UNC spokesman said.

Col. Mike Sullivan stated that the one-hour conference "focussed on Armistice Agreement operations matters." But the UNC Public Affairs Office would not elaborate with details, nor would they confirm the names of the officials who attended the meeting.

Informed military sources here said that the meeting was called by the North Koreans to discuss "an important issue."

UNC Vows To Continue Supporting Armistice Pact

SK0305072895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0718 GMT
3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—The United Nations Command (UNC) in Korea, in response to North Korean's move to forbid United Nations monitors for the Korean Armistice Agreement from entering the truce village of Panmunjom, declared Wednesday afternoon that they will continue to support the pact.

UNC spokesman Jim Coles stated, "The UNC will continue to honor the agreement and the obligations under the agreement."

As reported earlier Wednesday by NAEWOE press, the official North Korea watcher here, the North Korean People's Army (KPA) dispatched a statement that said they were cordoning off their territory on the northern side of the joint security area at Panmunjom from Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) members, U.S. military personnel and journalists, unless they have authorization from Pyongyang to enter.

North Korea has been dissatisfied with the armistice agreement since the appointment of the first Korean General Hwang Won-tak as the leader of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) in March 1991.

"The KPA have been working for years to attack and break the armistice structure," Coles replied.

The KPA statement came after talks were held Wednesday morning between MAC officers and KPA officials at Panmunjom.

DPRK Denounced for Closing NNSC Office

SK0305082695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT
3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea denounced North Korea Wednesday for the

latter's decision to close the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) office on the northern side of the truce village of Panmunjom.

"It's nothing more than covering the sun with one's hands," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "As we said when the North expelled the Polish delegation to the NNSC, the Korean Armistice Treaty is valid until South and North Korea agree to a peace pact through bilateral talks."

The spokesman also warned that the North must stop making attempts to nullify the Armistice Agreement, dismissing their attempts as a "dangerous game".

'Express Violation' of Accord

*SK0305105095 Seoul YONHAP in English 1042 GMT
3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has resolved to cope resolutely with the North Korean act of closing down the offices of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC] at Panmunjom and of restricting the passage of UN Command personnel into their sector of the joint security area.

A government official, terming the North Korean measure as an express violation of the Armistice Agreement, said Wednesday the North's threat to the armistice system will be acted on strongly through the cooperative system existing between South Korea and the United States.

The current truce system should be respected until a peace mechanism sets in between South and North Korea, he said, adding that the question of replacing the truce system with a peace agreement should be discussed and resolved always between the two Koreas under the basic South-North agreement.

"You cannot overlook the fact that the existing armistice system has kept peace alive on the Korean peninsula for more than 40 years," he said.

DPRK Sends Officials Overseas for Training

*SK0305052795 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
3 May 95 p 2*

[Kim Song-yong reports from Hong Kong]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea has selected 100 mid-level officials and sent them to various European countries, including Austria, Germany, and Britain, for training in the field of banking and trade in an effort to vitalize its overseas trade, Hong Kong sources well-informed in North Korean affairs stated on 2 May.

The sources revealed that North Korea has selected 100 officials who possess good party spirit and a good command of English, and who hold positions higher than section chief in the Maebong Trade Company, the

Moran Corporation, the Kwangmyongsong Company, and other trade companies under the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces and the Administration Council. Thereupon, North Korea has sent them to various banks and economy-related education organs of European countries for one year of training in the fields of banking and trade.

The sources revealed that, prior to this, North Korea had sent five officials of the Taesong Bank to the British Midland Bank in 1990 for training on international banking. However, the sources added this is the first time North Korea has sent such a large number of officials overseas for training, analyzing this as being aimed at vitalizing its overseas trade and at coping with international trade disputes.

DPRK Described as 'Pseudoreligious Camp'

*SK0305114395 Seoul YONHAP in English 1122 GMT
3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—"North Korea is like a huge pseudo-religious camp and control there was very tight as I heard before," one of the Korean residents abroad who have recently been to Pyongyang said here Wednesday.

More than 30 Korean residents in North and South America said on arrival at Kimpo Airport North Korea did not allow them to meet their relatives in the North in most cases.

Most of the visitors dropped into Seoul for brief stay on their way back home from Beijing and several others as transit passengers.

"North Korea in principle did not permit contacts with our relatives in the North but did allow some from Argentina to meet their relatives at a Pyongyang restaurant for several hours," one of them, who gave his name only as Kim, said.

The meeting came only after the visitors from Argentina repeatedly asked for permission to meet with their relatives, saying they had come from a very remote land, he said.

The 70-year-old man said that he himself wanted to meet some of his relatives but North Korea did not allow it apparently because of myself being an "unwelcome character."

"In some instances, visitors bribed their North Korean escorts with money to have opportunities to meet with their relatives," Kim said.

Another visitor, a certain Yi, age 57, said that at a Pyongyang restaurant, they served very tiny amount of kimchi. "When I asked for some more kimchi, they demanded a couple of more dollars," Yi said.

Many of the visitors said they feel that for South and North Korea to promote mutual exchanges and cooperation, they should depart from the practice of seeing each other's defective points only.

Envoy to PRC Interviewed on Post-Deng Era

SK0205140195 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
2 May 95 p 8

[Telephone interview with Hwang Pyong-tae, ROK ambassador to the PRC, by Kim Chong-su, member of CHUNGANG ILBO special editorial board, on 1 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kim] The so-called PRC experts expect that after Deng Xiaoping's death, decentralization will be accelerated, and this may lead to a possible collapse of the PRC in the worst case. Do you think decentralization will be accelerated after Deng's death?

[Hwang] That is a totally wrong speculation. There had been signs of a decentralization trend until 1993. The local governments collected taxes and "donated" their share of state management to the central government. At one time, the financial imbalance between the central and local governments was three to seven. However, the situation was changed in early 1994. The central government revised the tax system in January 1994 and strengthened its financial structure. Contrary to expectations, local governments did not object. The tax reform showed its effect after three to four months. Now the financial situation of the central and local governments is reversed to seven to three. In 1995, the central government is supporting local governments just like the ROK Government is providing subsidies to ROK local governments. In short, decentralization is impossible because the local governments do not have the money.

[Kim] What are other factors?

[Hwang] What leads the PRC is the Communist Party, that is, political power. The Communist Party still controls PRC politics. The people recognize the orthodoxy of the Communist Party, which has led the PRC for 70 years.

The PRC people witnessed the fall of the former Soviet Union after the collapse of its Communist Party. Thus, they strongly feel that the Communist Party in the PRC is indispensable and they even have affection for the party.

Recently, there have been moves toward "central democracy" which calls for concentrating political power to the central government. Therefore, there is no chance for decentralization in terms of political power.

[Kim] What about the PRC military?

[Hwang] The military power plays an important role in relations between the local and central government. Traditionally, the central government has had military power in the PRC, and this will continue in the future. In this regard, decentralization is impossible because local governments do not have the money, political power, or military power.

People who still talk about decentralization have too much imagination about the collapse of the Soviet Union. The PRC is different from the Soviet Union.

[Kim] The PRC is faced with three tasks: narrowing the economic imbalance between provinces and classes; stabilizing the economy, and proceeding with opening up and reform. What will be the PRC Government's priority after Deng Xiaoping's death?

[Hwang] Officially, the PRC wants to increase productivity, that is, to improve economic efficiency and simultaneously achieve justice in distribution. However, as Deng Xiaoping said, the basic spirit leading the PRC economy is to become rich first and distribute the wealth later. Therefore, efficiency will precede distribution in the PRC's policy.

[Kim] Will there be any changes in ROK-PRC economic cooperation after Deng Xiaoping's death? It appears that large-scale projects characterized by intergovernmental cooperation and smaller cooperation at the civilian level may face different situations.

[Hwang] The ROK-PRC economic cooperation will not experience any changes before or after the death of Deng Xiaoping. The ROK-PRC economic cooperation will continue with close ties. The main reason is the unique industrial cooperation between the ROK and the PRC.

The ROK-PRC economic cooperation is so comprehensive that it can be called integration by industry rather than industrial cooperation. The ROK-PRC cooperation is based on long-term plans rare anywhere else in the world.

The motive of ROK-PRC economic cooperation is more than mutual industrial development. The cooperation is based on the PRC economy itself, which will be the largest market in the world in the 21st century. The ROK-PRC economic cooperation will be the pillar of the gigantic "Asia Pacific Economic Circle" in which Japan and other Asian countries will participate. The opinion is shared by middle to top PRC Government officials. The ROK-PRC economic cooperation is supported by the entire PRC Government.

[Kim] Then, what is Japan's position in the PRC?

[Hwang] One of the PRC Government's internal objectives in the ROK-PRC economic cooperation is to induce passive economic cooperation with Japan. The PRC expects the ROK to play the catalytic role in achieving the PRC's long-term ambition.

The ROK-PRC economic cooperation will fill the void neglected by Japan in developing Asia's economic potential.

Back to the "Asia Pacific Economic Circle," I would like to clarify that the new order is not clannish excluding the United States and other countries.

The ROK-PRC Economic cooperation will continue irrespective of the fate of Deng Xiaoping. We have a solid ground.

[Kim] Do you mean the time exchange division [TDX] and other projects will not be affected?

[Hwang] No. I expect the projects will expand. Currently, there are five projects underway: TDX, automobile, telecommunications, atomic energy, and aircraft.

The list will grow. New ROK-PRC cooperation projects under consideration are petrochemical and thermal power fields.

[Kim] Would you like to comment on future ROK-PRC economic cooperation?

[Hwang] It is obvious that the ideological dispute inside the PRC power class is over. In other words, there will no longer be discussions on choosing between a market economy and a planned economy.

Rather, the tasks Deng Xiaoping left to the next generation are administrative and technical questions to be solved by the technocrats. I can assert that there are no more problems concerning the economic system."

Leaders, Families of Japan Aum Shinrikyo Banned

SK0305014395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0033 GMT
3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Justice Ministry Wednesday [3 May] banned 39 core leaders and their families from Japan's doomsday cult, Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth), including the cult's leader Asahara, from entering the country.

The ministry dispatched to all air and sea ports across the nation a list of names of the Japanese Doomsday Cult leaders, which was earlier received from Japan's Justice Ministry and police authorities, and instructed officials there to ban all people whose names appear on it from entering the country.

In the wake of the slaying of a top leader of the Aum Shinrikyo cult by a Korean youth living in Japan April 25, the Justice Ministry increase its vigilance when checking Japanese tourists and businesspeople entering the country, to prepare against possible retaliatory terrorist acts by fanatic cult or right-wing organization members.

A senior Justice Ministry official said, "Since the checking of Japanese travelers has been intensified, no attempted entry by Aum Shinrikyo members has been reported. To prepare against their possible entry, however, we have taken steps to ban the entry of 39 core leaders of the religious cult, and their families members, whose identities we have been able to ascertain."

Shipbuilding Capacity Said Behind Japan, Europe

SK0305012595 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 May 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite bold plans to expand shipbuilding facilities which the European Union (EU)

has recently moved to eagerly check, Korea's capacity to build vessels bigger than 40,000 tons is estimated to stand far behind Japan and Europe's, with less than a half and a third of the number of yards they have, respectively.

According to a dispatch from the Tokyo Office of the Korean Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) which cited a report by a Japanese maritime newspaper, Korea is expected to have a total of 13 shipbuilding facilities by 1998—two in each of the three categories, 40,000 to 80,000 tons, 80,000 to 150,000 tons and 150,000 to 250,000 tons in addition to seven in the more than 250,000 ton category.

Meanwhile, Japan is expected to have a combined four 40,000-80,000 ton yards, nine 80,000-150,000 ton ones, 150,000-250,000 ton ones and eight over-250,000-ton ones.

The daily predicted that Europe will have 17 40,000-80,000 ton ones, 15 80,000-150,000 ton ones, six 150,000-250,000 ton ones and 10 over-250,000-ton ones in the same year.

Over the next three years, Korea plans to add one 80,000-150,000 ton yard and five over-250,000-ton ones.

During the same period, European shipbuilders reportedly plan to build two 150,000-250,000 ton yards, and close one 40,000-80,000 ton one.

Investment Promotion Accord Signed With Portugal

SK0305020295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT
3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Portugal signed an agreement Wednesday to mutually promote and protect each other's investments in the other's country, the Foreign Ministry said.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and Portuguese Ambassador to Korea Manuel Gervasio de Almeida Leite at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, a ministry spokesman said.

The agreement stipulates that each country must encourage investment in each other's territory by providing most favored nations status to the other, according to the spokesman.

It also calls for each government to provide proper and speedy compensation to investors from either country when one enacts nationalization and confiscation measures on investors from the other.

The agreement also allows foreign investors to remit to their own country profits made from business activities in the other.

Daewoo Plant in Uzbekistan Begins Operation

SK0305012995 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
3 May 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Daewoo Electronics's home electronic component plant in Tashkent in the Uzbekistan Republic, constructed at a cost of 3.5 million dollars, goes into commercial operation today.

Daewoo officials said Uz-Daewoo Electronics Co. will specialize in the production of a number of parts and components, including presses and molded materials, for television sets and videotape recorders.

The components from the new facility, with a total floor space of 1,500 pyong (one pyong is about 3.3 square meters), will be supplied to Daewoo's integrated home electronics manufacturing plant in Tashkent.

The components plant will begin with a production capacity of 100,000 each of the range of parts but gradually increase the capacity in accordance with the expansion of manufacturing at the finished products plant, the officials said.

Grain Prices Increase Due to Decreased Imports

SK0305012395 Seoul *THE KOREA HERALD* in English
3 May 95 pp 8, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Grain import prices are headed upward due to poor harvests in exporting countries and Korea's shifting grain needs.

Feed corn import prices in April averaged about \$144 per ton (cost, insurance and freight), marking a 6.7 percent increase from last December, according to figures released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry yesterday.

During the same period of four months, soybean imports have indicated a 4.1-percent increase to \$227 a ton (CIF) [cost, insurance, freight], said the ministry. Bad crops in China, combined with China's own growing need, were cited for the reason for the hike in soybean import prices.

"The actual price jumps are higher than the percentages indicated if the won's appreciation against the dollar in the last few months is taken into consideration," said an official at the ministry's grain policy department.

Wheat imports on the other hand have shown a downward price trend. But price increase are anticipated on

wheat in the next few months, due to forecasts for poor crops in Russia and the U.S., said the ministry.

On a closer look, the changes in corn import prices serve to illustrate how fluctuations in international grain markets affect South Korea's import prices.

Corn import prices in December averaged \$135 per ton (CIF), according to the ministry figures, compared with \$144 in April.

The price jump was ultimately traced to China's decision in late 1994 to ban all corn exports in order to meet its own grain demand. China's policy has meant Korea's switch to more expensive, but better quality corn imports from the United States.

Other than the switch in import origin, the hike in corn import prices was also said to result from the decreasing availability of feed wheat from Canada and Australia due to poor harvests in those countries last year, according to trading sources.

Faced with difficulties of securing wheat cargoes, Korean grain importers have been increasingly turning to U.S. corn as an alternative, ultimately contributing to the rising price of U.S. corn imports.

"It is no exaggeration to say U.S. corn currently dominates the Korean feed grain import market," noted a grain trader at Cargill Korea Ltd. Weekly imports of U.S. corn have been known to exceed 200,000 tons in recent times, depending on fluctuations in freight rates and corn futures prices on the Chicago Board of Trade.

The ministry has yet to release tonnages imported for the month of April. But earlier government statistics peg Korea's Jan-March corn imports at about 2.23 million tons, marking a significant jump of 72 percent on a year-on-year basis. Corn imports during the period between January and March last year were at 1.3 million tons, according to the ministry.

As recently as last October, U.S. corn imports were being offered at as low as \$118-120 a ton (CIF) for delivery into ports of Inchon, Pusan or Kunsan.

The prices soared to the \$130 range by year-end. Steady price hike continued through March, when the \$140 range was broken, said trading sources.

In the soybean market, China's declining export supplies have meant Korea's purchase of Indian soybean. In March, for instance, a local buying group, 4-Member, bought in a tender 11,000 tons of Indian soybean at \$206-211 a ton (CIF) for delivery in April.

France Offers Condolences Over Taegu Explosion

*SK0305011995 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
3 May 95 p 2*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe sent a message to his Korean counterpart Kong No-myong to express "the deepest sympathy of the French people" over the fatal gas explosion in the southern city of Taegu, the French Embassy here said yesterday.

"In the name of the friendship and the bonds between our two countries, allow me to offer you my sincerest condolences. Please be kind enough to convey them to the families of the victims," the letter read.

Foreign Ministry Sends Explosion Relief Funds

*SK0305014495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0036 GMT
3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 3 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and Foreign Ministry officials Wednesday raised 10.2 million won in condolence money for the victims of last week's gas explosion in Taegu, according to the Foreign Ministry.

The money was distributed by ministry officials Wednesday to the headquarters handling the Taegu disaster, according to the ministry.

Indonesia

'Injustice' Seen in U.S. Embargo Against Iran

BK0305092095 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
3 May 95 p 4

[Editorial: "The U.S. Embargo Against Iran Is Marked by Distrust and Injustice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States adopts a certain policy against any country it dislikes. We learned yesterday that President Clinton cut off all U.S. trade and investments with Iran because the latter has been accused of exporting terrorism. An oil exploration project valued at \$4 billion has also been canceled.

It would be wrong not to do anything more as Iran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Clinton added that it would be wrong to stand pat in the face of overwhelming evidence of Tehran's support for terrorism because that could threaten to darken the dawn of peace between Israel and its neighbors.

The U.S. leader can say anything he wants about Iran. The latest U.S. decision was clearly a culmination of its anxiety over Iran's behavior which it says has caused concern in the Middle East and other areas of conflict in the world. The other basic reason for the U.S. decision was its anxiety that various agreements with Russia and China could enable Tehran to develop nuclear weapons. It is convinced that Iran is specifically seeking technology to obtain fuel for nuclear weapons. In 1992, Iran sent agents to Kazakhstan to buy enriched uranium.

Based on all these reasons, Clinton was convinced that instituting a trade embargo against Iran was the most effective way for the United States to help curb Iran's drive to acquire devastating weapons and give continued support to terrorism.

To what extent can the policy affect U.S. companies and workers? Clinton has replied that the impact would be limited, although an official admitted that its short-term impact would be felt in the United States. Fuel prices will rise as U.S. companies have been among the biggest buyers of Iranian oil.

Oil seems to be an important factor of the Clinton policy. Oil price hikes were noticed in various places on Monday. The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE reported that the price of crude oil for June delivery reached \$20.55 per barrel at the New York Mercantile Exchange on Monday night—a 17-percent rise over that of Friday. A similar trend for North Sea oil was detected in London.

If Japan boycotts Iranian oil, 40 percent of Iran's oil exports totaling 2.5 million barrels per day will be prevented from entering the world market. If this continues, Iran will lose \$4 billion in foreign exchange earnings.

The United States seems to be pursuing the isolation of Iran, and has persuaded Japan to suspend its daily purchase of 600,000 barrels of Iranian oil.

However, the policy will affect U.S. companies as well. They will lack operating bases in the Middle East because U.S. companies have also been barred from operating in Libya and Iraq. Their presence has been restricted in Syria, and they live in danger in Algeria. The U.S. embargo is taking effect at a time when the balance between the supply and demand is precarious. It is understandable that the demand for oil is growing along with economic progress, especially industrial development in India, China, and Southeast Asia. The supply situation is very worrisome. The world has lost about 3 million barrels of oil per day since the United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq in 1990. Daily oil production in Russia has dropped steadily over the past four years—from 12 million barrels to half of that now.

With this outlook, the oil factor in the U.S. embargo against Iran could in fact trigger off other problems.

President Clinton followed up his decision with various other political steps. He is persuading countries close to the United States to support his policy. However, there are doubts over whether the latest U.S. move will be successful because U.S. allies in Europe and Asia tend to reject the U.S. call for the severance of trade with Iran.

The embargo policy, which came one week before Clinton's visit to Moscow, indicates that the U.S. leader would exert pressure on President Boris Yeltsin to reverse his decision to sell two nuclear reactors to Iran.

Besides Russia and China, Germany and Japan are known to have become the targets of U.S. pressure.

As other countries, which may be involved in the implementation of the U.S. policy, play a very important role in the world economy, the move could affect the world economy as well. Iran, however, has firmly said that U.S. companies will be the worst affected by the move.

The case once again shows that whenever the superpower has an anxiety over something, other countries must share the ensuing complications. Iran's alleged intention to own nuclear weapons could be worrisome for world security in general.

Nevertheless, why is there so much fuss when another country is believed to be trying to own weapons of mass destruction, while the superpower itself and its allies do not adopt fair policies? Similar questions have been repeatedly raised in our editorials.

Government Undecided on PRC's Arms Sale Offer

BK0205122895 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
27 Apr 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—Brigadier General Suwarno Adiwijoyo, head of the ABRI

[Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] Information Department, has said the Indonesian Government is currently unable to make any decision in connection with China's offer to sell military weapons. Speaking to KOMPAS when contacted on Wednesday (26 April), the Information Department head said: "The government is still considering the offer."

General Zhang Wannian, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, who spoke to reporters after paying a courtesy visit on President Suharto on Tuesday (25 April), said his country has offered to sell an unlimited number and several types of military weapons. Zhang Wannian said: "We will make immediate preparations in view of the Indonesian Government's needs."

According to the head of the Information Department, Indonesia has received a number of similar offers, but Indonesia's focus in its relations with China currently lies within the framework of further improving bilateral cooperation and their newly resumed relations. He said: "In particular, we are making an effort to deepen mutual understanding between our two armed forces, not only among senior officers but also among junior officers."

When asked if ABRI is interested in viewing the weapons China has offered for sale, the head of the Information Department said: "We will definitely upgrade our bilateral relations with China. The sale of military weapons is still under consideration. [passage omitted on handing over duties to new deputy logistics chief on 27 April]"

Asylum Issue Not Affecting Ties With Australia

*BK0305082095 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
3 May 95 p 6*

[FBIS Translated Text] Semarang, KOMPAS—Sabam Siagam, Indonesian ambassador to Australia, has stressed that Indonesia and Australia are resolved not to allow the issue of an asylum request or other issues to affect existing bilateral relations. The two countries have decided to look into the details of the request by several East Timorese for political asylum in Australia.

"In this way the asylum request issue has been treated in a calm manner," he said. Sabam has also emphasized the statement by the Australian immigration authorities that it is not easy for anyone to request political asylum in that country. He also noted Foreign Minister Ali Alatas as saying that the East Timorese who requested political asylum in Australia are always welcome to return to Indonesia.

Sabam was responding to questions from journalists during a break at the 22d Indonesia-Australia Business Council Joint Conference at the Patra Jasa Hotel in Semarang on Tuesday.

Sabam, who is a former journalist, said frankly that he could not say much about the political asylum request because he had not yet met President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. This is because he had come

direct from Australia to Semarang to attend the opening ceremony of the conference.

"I arrived in Semarang direct from Australia. I have yet to report my presence to President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. Therefore, it is not possible for me to give you any details of the asylum request issue," Sabam said.

However, the ambassador reiterated that press reports had exaggerated the figure of the number of East Timorese citizens seeking political asylum in Australia.

"The figure did not reach 50 percent of the number reported in the mass media," he said, but he refused to reveal the exact figure before reporting the matter to President Suharto and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. Media reports say that 150 East Timorese have requested political asylum in Australia.

Japan's Toyoda Interviewed on Yen, Investment

*BK0205125495 Jakarta BISNIS INDONESIA in
Indonesian 26 Apr 95 p 1*

[“Excerpts” of interview with Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Federation of Japanese Economic Organizations, by correspondent Yus Husni M.T. in Jakarta—date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yus Husni] The recent appreciation of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar has had an impact, especially on countries with yen-dominated foreign debts. What is the impact on Japan itself?

[Toyoda] One of the causes of the yen's appreciation is Japan's huge trade surplus. To overcome this, our government is making efforts to boost Japanese consumer demand for imported goods by opening our market. This policy is aimed at maintaining the stability of the Japanese economic structure because we want to distribute the benefits to local consumers. We can still cope with the yen's continued appreciation by increasing the efficiency of the domestic industrial sector.

The yen's appreciation will some day drive Japanese industries to relocate factories overseas. This will benefit developing countries like Indonesia. If this is not done, another way to cope with industrial inefficiency caused by the yen's appreciation is through downsizing or retrenchment.

[Yus Husni] What concrete actions have the Keidanren [Federation of Japanese Economic Organizations] and the Japanese Government taken to cope with the yen's appreciation?

[Toyoda] The Japanese Government does not want the yen's appreciation to cause more unemployment among the Japanese people. Right now, the benefits of the yen's appreciation can still be enjoyed. The Keidanren continues to ask the government to adopt an integrated economic policy and open the domestic market wider to

imported products. This will enable foreign products, including those from Indonesia, to enter the Japanese market more easily.

As you know, the Japanese Government has promised to reduce its trade surplus to avoid the continued appreciation of the yen. In adopting this measure, we also want to disprove the incorrect perception that it is hard for imported products to penetrate the Japanese market.

[Yus Husni] Before visiting Indonesia, the Keidanren delegation visited other Southeast Asian countries. What were the main topics that you discussed with the leaders of those countries?

[Toyoda] During our visit to the Southeast Asian countries, the issue of the yen's appreciation was always a major topic of discussion, especially its impact on these countries' foreign debt. My talks with the Indonesian leaders also focussed on this issue.

One thing that few people know is that the yen's appreciation has a negative impact on the Japanese economy. A high appreciation in the yen is not favorable to Japan's economic fundamentals.

[Yus Husni] As for investment in Indonesia, what do you think of the Indonesian Government's policy of attracting foreign investors?

[Toyoda] The Keidanren and Japanese investors view Indonesia as a potential investment destination. We also believe that the Indonesian Government has adopted correct deregulation policies aimed at attracting foreign investors, such as the decision to enact Government Regulation No. 20/1994, which allows the establishment of wholly owned foreign companies.

If you ask me what else Japanese investors would want to facilitate investment here, I can tell you they want better infrastructure facilities, especially telecommunications. Telecommunications facilities are adequate in Java, but many things must still be done in areas outside of Java.

[Yus Husni] What was the outcome of the talks between the Keidanren and Kadin [Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry]?

[Toyoda] Our talks with the Kadin officials produced four cooperation agreements in trade and investment: First, the establishment of a task force in charge of identifying industrial sectors and trade problems, especially in secondary industrial sectors; second, efforts to reduce the impact of the yen's appreciation by enacting trade deregulation policies in Japan; third, the offer to cooperate in environment preservation and human resources development; and fourth, cooperation in research and development.

ILAF Issues Statement on Demonstrations

BK0205125395 (Internet) INDONESIA Listserv in Indonesian 1000 GMT 2 May 95

["Press Release" by the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (ILAF) No. 012/SP/YLBHI/V/1995 on Acts of Violence Against Labor and Student Demonstrations issued in Jakarta on 1 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor and student demonstrations took place in Jakarta and Semarang on 1 May 1995, the International Labor Day. In Jakarta, about 80 people demonstrated at the grounds of the office of the minister of manpower. The demonstrators demanded that daily national wages be increased to 7,000 rupiah, the freedom of trade unions be guaranteed, and illegal levies be abolished. They initially wanted to hold a dialogue with the Department of Manpower, but their request was rejected by the director general for manpower development and supervision. Five demonstrators were arrested and taken to the Setiabudhi Police Station in Central Jakarta.

In Semarang, a labor and student demonstration involved 400 people. They walked from the Diponegoro University campus to the Office of the Central Java Governor. There were acts of violence, and 14 demonstrators were arrested.

In the wake of the demonstrations and acts of violence committed and arrests made by the state apparatus, the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation [LBH] deems it necessary to convey the following points:

1. The labor and student demonstrations should have been understood as an expression of concern over the prevailing condition of the workers, restrictive and repressive methods used by the state through various organic laws (labor regulations, apparatus of repression), and the government's nonaccommodative attitude and policy toward worker aspirations.

2. It must also be understood that a demonstration for a better life is a legal means to convey the aspirations and interests of the workers because efforts for a dialogue have been deadlocked and the official labor institutions and mechanisms have denied the pursuit of the interests of the workers.

3. Accordingly, the state's attitude toward and action against the demonstrations should have been based on an understanding of the substantive labor problems. The state apparatus should not have been drawn into violence, which set a negative precedent for the demonstrators. Such attitude and action will not settle the prevailing labor problems but will instead cause anxiety and insecurity among the people.

4. As the independence of the Republic of Indonesia is entering its 50th year, it is time for the government to reformulate its long-term labor policy to give room to workers and businessmen to organize themselves freely and give legal protection to labor rights and their efforts to achieve a better welfare within the framework of relations with the employers and state.

Issued in Jakarta on 1 May 1995.

The LBH

Signed Hendardi, Director for Communications and Special Programs and Teten Masduki, Head of the Labor Division

'Mature Thinking' on National Issues Urged

*BK0205125695 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian
1 May 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "We Need To Be Mature"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If people ask when our thinking will become more mature, the reply will be "now." What is the reason for such a reply? Mature thinking "indicates a level of discipline and national culture." Such a reply is particularly relevant given the situation; we are currently facing problems in our national development. Take, for example, the statement made by Sudrajat Jiwandono [Bank of Indonesia governor] regarding the possibility of the country's foreign loans exceeding the worrisome \$100 billion mark if the yen continues to appreciate. His statement was in contrast to the World Bank's appraisal that a 10 percent decline in the dollar against the yen, Indonesia's foreign loans would spiral to \$150 billion. Jiwandono said that if the U.S. dollar depreciates against the yen by a mere 1 percent, an extra \$350 million would be added to Indonesia's existing foreign loans.

If examined carefully, the yen's appreciation against the dollar has reached 20 percent. Indonesia's foreign loans of \$93 billion will swell by 40 percent, an approximate increase of \$7 billion, and the loans will definitely surpass the \$100 billion mark. In an effort to thwart this problem, the government is exploring a strategy of making early repayments on high interest foreign loans. Jiwandono said this last Wednesday [26 April]. We need to be cautious despite this encouraging statement calling on us to remain calm and confident in the government's ability to find a solution to eliminate the problem. Foreign loans are an important source of funds to support our national development.

That is why President Suharto has constantly advised us to be concerned and to minimize our "extravagant" lifestyle. The yen is expected to appreciate again at the beginning of Repelita VI [Sixth Development Program] and at the start of our second 25-year longterm master plan. There is a possibility that the yen will appreciate further. Thus, a number of prestige projects should be abandoned. Apart from this, inflation has almost reached double figures because of the yen's appreciation. If the trend continues, there is a possibility that inflation will reach double figures. As such, it is only logical for us to remain constantly vigilant with regard to future uncertainties. We must be constantly prepared to face any latent circumstances and anticipate and evaluate indications of any phenomena that could cause an adverse impact on our economy. We also need to maintain our resilience as a struggling nation.

Recently, several issues have distracted our attention from other important issues. There was the Bapindo [Development Bank of Indonesia] issue, the case of the triple murder by Oki [accused of murder in Los Angeles], the Permadi case [blasphemy case], the delinquent problem, and a dozen more cases that need not be

mentioned—all taking up our precious time and energy. Therefore, let us be more mature and unemotional. Let the rightful and relevant agencies solve the criminal cases. Our precious time and energy should be directed toward basic problems such as eradicating poverty, improving the education system, and upholding the law; in brief, focussing our attention on more important and beneficial issues rather than cheap and sensational issues. We feel that we are able to differentiate between "tricky" and "mammoth" issues that can distract our attention and retard and destroy our development.

Laos**Australian Governor General Heyden Arrives**

*BK0105105895 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 0000 GMT 1 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At an invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; H.E. Bill Hayden, governor general of the Commonwealth of Australia; and his wife and delegation arrived in Vientiane yesterday morning for a two-day state visit to the LPDR.

H.E. Bill Hayden held talks with H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan and met with H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister of the LPDR, at the Presidential Office.

On the evening of the same day, H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan and his wife organized a formal banquet at the National Assembly in honor of H.E. Bill Hayden and his wife.

Party Officials Meet With PRC Delegation

*BK2904132995 Vientiane KPL in English 0943 GMT
29 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, April 29 (KPL)—A meeting was held at the Vang Sadet Government Guest House yesterday morning between the delegations of the Propaganda and Training [PT] Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee (LPRP CC) and of the PT Board of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPC CC).

The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences in propaganda and training affairs, particularly political, ideological, cultural, and social affairs of each country. The two delegations also informed each other of their activities and directions of future activities.

Heading the Lao delegation was its deputy-chief, Mr. Phandouangchit Vongsa, and the visiting Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Zhai Tai Feng, member of the CPC CC Disciplinary Control Committee, deputy chief of the CPC CC Propaganda and Training Board, and secretary of the Party Committee of the Chinese Writers' Association.

In the afternoon, the Chinese delegation visited the Office of PASASON newspaper, organ of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee.

During its working visit to Laos between April 27 to May 2 as guest of the LPRP CC Propaganda and Training Board, the Chinese delegation are scheduled to visit industrial factories and cultural sites in Vientiane Capital and Luang Prabang Province.

Party Sources' Perspectives on Upcoming Congress

95P30089A

[FBIS Editorial Report] The Bangkok weekly SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai in its 19-25 March and 2-8 April editions on page 31 published articles in the "Focus on Indochina" column by "Lan Fong" commenting on the next Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] congress.

Lan Fong cited internal LPRP "sources" in assessing possibilities for promotion to the party political bureau to fill the vacancies left by the deaths of Kaysone Phomvihane, Phoun Sipaseut, and Somlat Chanthamat. According to Lan Fong, the likely possibilities for political bureau membership are Agriculture and Forestry Minister Sisavat Keobounphan, Foreign Minister Som-savat Lengsavat—reportedly Kaysone's personal advisor—, Culture Minister Osakan Thammatheva, and possibly Vientiane Mayor Boun-gnang Volachit, who is said to be close to President Nouhak Phoumsavan. The columnist added that "even if these four are not elected to the political bureau, they will at least be chosen as alternate members," as will former Finance Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong and his successor, Kaysone's son Saisomphon Phomvihane. Lan Fong considered the foregoing "quite likely" to occur should Nouhak decide to continue his political role. If, however, Nouhak decides to "rest," Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon "would have to" take over as president, resigning as prime minister. Lan Fong said that if Khamtai does so, he would be replaced by Defense Minister Lt. General Choummali Sai-gnason.

According to Lan Fong, Choummali's ascension to the premiership would facilitate Sisavat's "return" to the Ministry of Defense. The columnist stated that Sisavat and Khamtai "are very close" because of their children's marital ties.

In the 2-8 April issue of the magazine, Lan Fong described the 1-8 March Lao government reshuffle as "minor," but having "great significance" for the Lao political scene. He noted that "second-generation" revolutionary Phao Bounnaphon has played a leading role in the economic reforms put in place since the 1986 party congress. Phao is reportedly close to Khamtai, Sisavat, National Assembly Chairman Saman Vi-gnaket, and economic planning chief Khamphoui Keoboualapha, according to Lan Fong.

The columnist noted the division of labor in the government: Khamtai and Sisavat concentrate on political and military affairs, while Phao and Khamphoui manage foreign economic relations. According to Lan Fong, this "clear division of labor" has resulted in strong, unified party and government leadership after Kaysone's death.

Lan Fong concluded that notwithstanding President Nouhak's seniority to "second-generation revolutionaries like Khamtai," the latter are firmly in place, thanks to the "strong cohesion and effective coordination among their five leading members." Nouhak is thus relegated to "symbolic importance," the columnist asserted.

Sisavat Keobounphan Memoirs, Battle Experiences

95SE0123A Vientiane PASASON in Lao
10 Feb - 16 Feb 95 p 2

[Article compiled from the reminiscences of Sisavat Keobounphan on 24 Jan 95]

[10 Feb 95 p 2]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] I was born on 1 May 1928 in Ban Houai Kaleum Village, Meuang Boua Canton, Sam Neua District, Houa Phan Province to a poor farm family. My mother and father died when I was still young, and I became an orphan living with my brothers and sisters and an uncle. On 15 April 1947, I left the village to join the revolution as a fighter in an armed propaganda unit fighting in the North. Mr Ma Khaikhamphouthon was its leader. In April 1948, I was transferred to be with Mr Kaysone Phomvihane, the former party chairman and president of the country, as a member of a propaganda and mobilization unit building a secret, political grassroots in the North in the Sankang Liapma area of Xieng Kho District. Mr Kaison Phomvihane was the head of this unit which fulfilled its duty of building a secret, political grassroots and secret, armed guerrilla units. Then we attacked and liberated Xieng Kho District and induced more and more of the patriotic youth to volunteer to become soldiers to redeem the nation. After becoming a combatant in an armed propaganda unit in the North, I went to Tuyen Quang Province in the North of Vietnam April 1948. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane asked me to meet with him then. He had been a law student at the University there and had come to find a secure area.

At that time he asked me and Mr. Khamphan from the armed propaganda unit to go to Tuyen Quang Province. When we got there we organized as an armed propaganda unit, which meant that we set up a unit to build a secret grass roots and went to the Songkvang Lao Mang area (Xieng Khouang Province). We mobilized people in Songkvang Lao Mang, and the Lao Mai became our secret core of support. They took us to build huts, gather corn and get pots to boil the corn in. When this was completed, I went to get Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane at Mu Teui (on the border with Vietnam) and brought him back

to the banana leaf hut. Then he organized an expansion and made me the head of a propaganda unit. At first, I was the head of the 15th unit which mobilized people in villages, markets, fields and streams to build a base of support. Mr. Khamoun was head of the second unit which operated in villages in the Pouak Mountains in the North of Xieng Kho. After I completed these duties, he made me head of another unit to build the grassroots from Thong Bao to Thong Talang. By the end of 1949 we had built a core of support, a political grass roots and guerrilla units. By the beginning of 1950, it was felt that the conditions were right in Sankang Liapma, and it was agreed to liberate Xieng Kho District. When Xieng Kho District had been liberated, many youth volunteered to be soldiers. At that time, they were organized into a mobile propaganda unit in Liapma. On 20 January 1949 Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, the former party chairman and president of our country, received orders from the Central Committee of the Indo-chinese Party to set up the first Lao military unit in order to expand the armed forces. When he received these orders, Comrade Kaysone agreed to set up the Latsavong unit at Lao Houng. After the Latsavong unit was set up, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane himself became its commander, but in fact he assigned me to build and lead the Latsavong unit. At that time, I led the unit to Vietnam for military and political training and to study ways of mobilizing secure areas and building areas of resistance. By the middle of 1952 the training was complete. It was I who built and led it because he was the commander of many units. I was accepted as a member of the Communist Party of Indo-china on 5 January 1950. He made me secretary of the core unit of the Latsavong unit because I had built the core of this international unit. I was the secretary for the Latsavong unit from 1950 on. In 1951, I led the Latsavong unit which was combined with a unit of Vietnamese volunteers. [passage omitted]

[11 Feb 95 p 2]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kaysone told me to] defend the stronghold at Son District at the end of 1951. While I was defending Son District, I led the Latsavong unit in attacking the plunderers at Pha Thi and seizing all the weapons. Then I moved my forces to attack the enemy in Houa Meuang and returned to protect Son District. At the beginning of 1953 during January or February I was ordered by Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane to move the Latsavong unit from Son District to Xieng Kho District and prepare to join up with a Vietnamese unit and to attack and liberate Sam Neua Province in 1953. In April 1953, we liberated the town of Sam Neua and then drove the enemy back along the highway from Sam Neua District to Peun District. We drove them back to Lap District and to the Lana Khang caves. Our enemies then were French soldiers. They died by the column. We liberated Sam Neua Province completely.

Why did we have to liberate Sam Neua Province? It was because we wanted the Lao resistance government which was established in 1950 to have a base for commanding

the entire country. Therefore, we decided to liberate all of Sam Neua Province. When we took Sam Neua Province, it became a base for the Lao resistance government as well as for the party central committee. The party organizations assembled there. After that I was given the assignment by Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane of defending the border area between Xieng Khouang and Sam Neua at the Lana Khang caves. After we had been there 3 to 4 months, the plunderers at Pha Thi, Hong Non and Pa Kha regrouped and seized Ban Kang Village, Houa Xieng and Sam Neua. So Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane ordered me to return with the Latsavong unit to Sam Neua and work with Vietnamese volunteer units in eliminating the plunderers from the area of Phon Hong, Pa Kha and Pha Thi. When this had been completed, we went to stay at Ban Kang Village and Houa Xieng. In April 1954, I was ordered by Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane to leave Ban Kang Village and Houa Xieng for Tuyen Quang Province. The first time I was there I had studied politics. It was the base for central authority in Vietnam. My trip there was such that I reached Tuyen Quang Province in June 1954. It took me 2 months. When I reached there I met Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane. Mr. Souphanouvong was there. It was during this time that France accepted the cease-fire at the Geneva convention and granted independence to the three countries involved. It was necessary to set up an armistice commission to withdraw the French forces from Laos, to withdraw the Vietnamese volunteers from our country, and to withdraw our patriotic Lao soldiers from the South and North to regroup in the two provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Saly. This was because at that time we had bargained with France at the Geneva convention for an advantageous position. In Vietnam the Vietnamese got all of the North (the border was in the middle). We Lao only received the two provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Saly. As for the Cambodians (Cambodia), they did not receive a base area; they lost everything and returned to secret operations. This being the case we had to withdraw forces. At that time, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane set up a joint armistice commission with Vietnam. The first person named was Mr. Singkapo, the second was Mr. Ma Khaikhamphithoun, and I was the third. This was an armistice commission for the entire country. It was set up jointly with Vietnam and included Vietnamese because we were to withdraw the Vietnamese soldiers from Laos and return them to Vietnam. Therefore, we were located in Ban Khang Khai Village, Pek District and Xieng Khouang Province and were called the "armistice commission for the entire country". In addition, cease-fire plus armistice and troop withdrawal subcommittees were set up. [passage omitted]

[13 Feb 95 p 2]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In January 1955, I returned to Sam Neua Province and took part in a great political sorting out for the members of the Indo-chinese party. I sorted Kaysone's team. The examining and inspection was not easy. No matter how

unusual something was, we examined it. We compiled everything. Kaysone was there because he had been appointed a representative of the Communist Party of Indo-china to manage the examining being done in preparation for the congress which would divide up the party. Chairman Ho Chi Minh had agreed that if the French were defeated and agreed to grant independence, then we would have to decide to divide into three parties. He said that we were now a large family and had to divide up in order to lead the revolutions in our own countries and be self-reliant. Therefore, he agreed to organizing as three parties. At that time, they named the Vietnamese party the Workers' Party of Vietnam. This meant that it had split from the Communist Party of Indo-china to become the Workers' Party of Vietnam. We Lao also split off to establish a new Lao party. Cambodia had to set up its own party. We gathered the comrades who met the condition of being members of the Communist Party of Indo-china as well as being in this regrouping area and sorted them thoroughly. In the end we had narrowed them down to the very best. We used uniform, simple principles. Out of more than 300 members of the Communist Party of Indo-china we got 27 representatives to organize the party congress for creating the Lao party. The congress of our party held its first session on 22 March 1955 in Phoun District in the Sam Neua base area. I was a member of the party who took part in this congress. The congress agreed to create a party called "The Lao People's Party". We did not use the name, Lao revolutionary, then. We elected the first party central committee which included five comrades: 1. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane, 2. Comrade Nouthak Phoumsavan, 3. Comrade Khamseang, 4. Comrade Boun Phommahasai, 5. me.

But the congress saw that only five comrades could not lead the country. Therefore the congress gave these five comrades who were elected by the congress to be the first central committee the power to accept more members as needed. The committee proceeded according to the wishes of the congress and expanded to include Mr. Souphanouvong, Mr. Khamtai Siphandon, Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit and Mr. Sisomphon Lovansai. After I became a member of the central committee, I was elected to the party military committee in 1955. This committee had three members. Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane was its head, and it also included Comrade Bounphom Mahasai and me. We were the first military committee in 1955. Later it was expanded to include Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and Mr. Meun. After I was elected to the central committee and assigned to the party military committee, those on the outside appointed Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane to be chief of staff and me to be deputy secretary-general. After I received this assignment, the Vientiane puppet soldiers sent units to attack and seize the Sala Saleui area, which was in the Sam Neua regrouping area. They chose skilled soldiers who parachuted in hoping to seize Sam Neua Province. At that time the party central committee and Comrade Kaysone appointed me to be commander. I led our units

in counterattacking this invasion by the Vientiane puppet soldiers into Sala Saleui and was completely successful. This caused the enemy to break up and flee. Then I was assigned to be secretary for the Sam Neua Province regrouping area and to perform the duties of building the Lao People's Party, of mobilizing the people to resist the enemy and defend the Sam Neua regrouping area, of setting up guerrilla units, and of setting up armed units to resist the enemy. On the battlefield Comrade Khamtai Siphandon replaced me and became commander while I was secretary of Sam Neua Province from the end of 1955 to the beginning of 1960 when I was transferred to the Xieng Khouang central committee.

[15 Feb 95 p 2]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [In 1960] when we had captured all of Sam Neua Province, Mr. Kaysone ordered me to take the first battalion from Sam Neua and capture Ban Ban Village. In addition, he ordered the neutralist forces of Kong Le and our forces which were there to seize Sala Phou Khoun by means of Nong Het Phi. He ordered the second battalion to move in. The three forces attacked and seized the Xieng Khouang plains completely. It was felt that we had a good position. At that time it was militarily urgent to enlarge the liberated area. We had to attack as quickly as possible in the South and in the central region. Mr. Kaysone and the party leaders went to Xieng Khouang then. They asked me to go to Xieng Khouang in March 1960. As I was the secretary of the party of Sam Neua Province, I assigned Mr. Ma to take my place. When I arrived in Xieng Khouang a supreme headquarters was set up which included four comrades. First was Mr. Khamtai who was appointed to be the supreme commander. I was second and was appointed to be chief of staff. Third was Mr. Phoun Sipaseut, who was appointed political head. Fourth was Mr. Singkapo, who was assigned to lead the neutralist units. These were the appointments to the supreme headquarters in 1960 in Xieng Khouang Province.

After the appointments to the supreme headquarters were made and the work was divided according to echelons, the Vang Pao plunderers, who were special forces of the Americans, seized the Pa Dong area (south of Pek District and Khoun District). I was appointed to be the commander to liberate the Pa Dong area completely to create the appropriate conditions for holding the Na Mon congress.

In 1960, I was appointed to be the commander to lead five of our Lao battalions and ten companies of local forces which were working with Vietnamese forces to liberate Louang Namtha. At that time, the enemy in Louang Namtha had three GM (three demi-battalions) and had seized three mountains. Gen Boynleut Sanihan, supreme commander, had come in to be in direct command there. We tricked him and defeated him. We

asked China for permission to pass through their territory, which they granted. We sent the first battalion which was commanded by General Bounchan through China to capture Sing District and attack Louang Namtha from the rear. We organized a special attack unit to get behind them and block them at Vieng Phou Kha. By that time they had already fled.

[16 Feb 95 p 2]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [In 1964] after the liberation of Louang Namtha Province, I was appointed chairman of the North in order to build the political grassroots and defend the liberated areas. In 1965, I returned to Sam Neua and was assigned to be the military and political commander in the offensive to eliminate the plunderers from Sam Neua - they had reached Nong Khang Phi already and had encircled and were shooting into Sam Neua. At that time, I organized the offensive to eliminate the plunderers from Sam Neua using three slogans: use politics, use military activities to crush them, and use economic activities as a lever. Therefore when we began our offensive against the enemy in Peun District, O District, and Houa Meuang District, the enemy was shattered. Then we used economics to win over the people, and the people came to us. Then we returned to attacking the enemy at Nong Khang, Pa Kha and Hong Nonphi. The enemy regrouped at Pha Thi. At that time, I was sent abroad and assigned Comrade Saman Vignaket to command the liberation of the nest of the plunderers in Pha Thi. He completed the elimination of the plunderers. The plunderers were defeated by three blows and three slogans.

Then in 1973, I was appointed commander of the Xieng Khouang battlefield for the last time. I replaced Comrade Siphon. Duties were divided such that Comrade Siphon went to the rear in Vientiane to lead the unattached Vientiane units in attacking at Phou Pha to provide a way for me to lead units in attacking Kasi and seizing Vang Viang in order to make Phou Pha the border between us and the enemy. At that time there was a cease-fire in Vietnam, and the American B-52's were concentrating their bombing on Xieng Khouang. The enemy was taking advantage of the cease-fire in Vietnam to concentrate all the American air power on seizing Xieng Khouang. Our side planned to seize Phou Pha. Then there was a major battle which was not easy. Thai soldiers were heavily involved to my great misfortune. I went to headquarters and made plans in vain. When the plans were finished, I attacked Kasi. But our soldiers were not able to seize Phou Pha, and it became an opening for Thai soldiers to pour in and counterattack at Kasi District. We were not victorious because we were not as strong. We had to withdraw and defend our position at Sala Phou Khoun as before. As for Sam Thong and Long Cheng which we had liberated, we defended them completely. In April 1974, there was the final cease-fire throughout the country and throughout Indo-china. The battles were over, and we were even. They did not seize our land, and we did not seize their land. That

concluded the battles. Mr. Siphon still led units in expanding positions in Met District. (to be continued)

Thailand

Editorial Evaluates Outcome of AEM Meeting

BK0305094595 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 3 May 95 p A4

[Editorial: "AEM-Retreat 1995—What Does It Mean for ASEAN?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The belief that multilateral trade agreements should be the direction for international trade and economic relations is giving way to the fashionable greater priority of individual countries. It becomes secondary for nations to group together with a consensus for economic survival in a regional trading organization.

That was the impression created in the final analysis of the ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting (AEM) Retreat held at the Cape Phanwa hotel in Phuket last week.

While it appears that AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) may become an effective trading instrument for the six-nation forum in the long term, AFTA currently addresses only tariff reductions for manufactured goods. Controversy and disagreement entered the arena when exchange and trade in Intra-ASEAN agricultural produce came up for discussion.

Despite discussions by senior officials since the last AEM meeting in Chiang Mai, and the subsequent mild agreements reached, the inclusion of non-processed agricultural products exposed the tendency towards indigenous interests of each nation becoming the deciding factor in controversial issues.

Two ASEAN agreements, the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation and the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT), will spell out the mechanisms for future ASEAN economic, industrial and trade cooperation.

Besides committing ASEAN deeper to AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area), it will undoubtedly pave the way for more cooperation in covering the tourism sector, one of the more promising sectors. It also seems that the pace of progress made in the non-processed agricultural sector, first discussed at the Chiang Mai AEM, will be maintained by minimizing the sensitive and exclusion lists.

With the accession of Vietnam in July as a member of ASEAN, we will see the second most populous nation in ASEAN making its debut in the first "ASEAN-SEVEN" Summit in Bangkok later this year. The "seven" will spell out their vision for the 21st Century. Hopefully, we will see a collective "vision" at the December ASEAN heads of state summit.

This enlarged region-wide effort must include more programs to promote and develop cooperation in the

economic area, enhanced efforts in the exchange of students of technology and agriculture and the free flow of capital.

ASEAN has often proudly claimed th holds over 300 meetings and seminars every year. It will also mean that someone is up there flying to some ASEAN capital at this moment. Another is packing his bags to get to another ASEAN capital for more talking. And still another leaving some hotel and yet another at an airport bound for home.

It is not to say that in the 27-year history of ASEAN there has been no meaningful achievement. But it would suffice to say that ASEAN has done plenty of talking to reach the current stage in its development as a regional forum.

Officials and ministers at various levels, including the heads of states, understandably, may be bored attending these inter-ASEAN meetings over the years. Seeing the same faces at different surroundings in various ASEAN capitals also could contribute to a sense of boredom.

Enter Vietnam, with Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi as the likely cities to be added to the list of ASEAN capitals as venues for further talks. The length of dialogues and press releases will certainly be increasing.

But to keep pace with rapid global economic advances, the ASEAN-SEVEN Heads of State at their December 1995 summit should instill some sort of urgency.

Commission Urges Change of Policy Toward Burma

BK0305095195 Bangkok Cho So 100 Radio in Thai 0905 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House Commission for Foreign Affairs convened a meeting to consider the problems along the border with Burma and the killing of Thai fishermen by Burmese robbers. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Chamni Sakdiset, an MP from the Phalang Tham Party, said the commission took note that the constructive engagement policy Thailand has applied toward Burma has apparently failed to dissuade Burma from using violence and proposed that Thailand change this policy and hold consultative talks with that country. If this does not work, the commission deemed it appropriate that Thailand should not support Burma's attendance at the upcoming [ASEAN] ministerial meeting to be held in Brunei.

Chamni said: [Begin Chamni recording] If that does not work, the commission agreed that Burma should not be allowed to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers in Brunei. In other words, the commission proposed that ASEAN withdraw the invitation and bar Burma from the meeting. [end recording]

Generally speaking, the House Commission for Foreign Affairs agreed that Burma should not be invited to

attend future meetings of the ASEAN foreign ministers because the violence has not yet subsided in that country.

Surin Warns Burma of Possible Military Action

BK0305093995 Bangkok BUSINESS DAY in English 3 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand warned yesterday that the time for talking over repeated military incursions across its Myanmar [Burma] border had come to an end and military action would be taken if further violations occurred. The stern warning was issued by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan to Myanmar government troops and minority rebels alike who have been pursuing their low-scale warfare into Thai territory.

Speaking to reporter, the Mr. Surin admitted for the first time that diplomatic efforts by Thai Foreign Ministry to solve the Thai-Myanmar border issue seemed to be heading nowhere.

Mr. Surin, who was speaking after attending a weekly Cabinet session, said that the army may take a more active role in defending border to prote the life and property of Thais.

He said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Interior Ministry were prepared to back any such military action.

The deputy foreign minister said: "The situation (at the Thai-Myanmar border) has deteriorated, and if we fail to find a diplomatic solution to it, we will have to accept the armed forces@ suggestion for military action. The Interior Ministry and the National Security Council do not have any objections to the military leaders' advice."

Earlier yesterday, Defence Minister General Wichit Sukmak submitted a report to the Cabinet on the border situation which also included a study on recent clashes between Thai soldiers and Buddhist Karen groups .

The report said: "The Thai army will protect the border and will not allow Buddhist Karen groups to cross into Thailand. The Third Region Army has been ordered to beef up patrols along the border.

On Monday, Mr. Surin summoned Myanmar's Ambassador to Thailand and protested against the repeated intrusions. The chairman of Thai-Myanmar Border Committee also asked Yangon to tell its troops to stop aiding Buddhist Karen groups, which have fought alongside them.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong yesterday toured the border area in Tak province after meeting Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit on Monday.

He also visited the Thai Military Protection Unit 34 and the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge, which is currently under construction.

Government To Move Karen Refugees Inland*BK0305070595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 May 95 pp 1,6*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government has decided to establish a temporary center for Karen National Union refugees from Burma deeper in Thailand to prevent a recurrence of attacks by foreign troops, a senior government source said yesterday.

The centre, to be located over 2,000 rai in Ban Mae La of Tha Song Yang District, some eight kilometres from the Moei River, will be able to accommodate up to 30,000 Karen refugees presently housed in 16 camps along the border.

"The present shelters are only 500 metres from the Moei River. The proposed site is expected to provide more safety for Karens fleeing to Thailand," the source said.

He stressed that the Karen refugees would stay only temporarily and return to Burma when the situation returned to normal.

Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong, who yesterday paid a visit to Ban Huai Manok, one of the areas set on fire by raiding Burmese troops and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) last week, said the establishment of the centre would be a short-term solution to the problem.

"The long-term measure is how to help our neighbour settle national reconciliation and develop enough security in life and property so that they can live with a positive future," said Dr. Krasae.

He said the Foreign Ministry would invite concerned parties including non-governmental organisations [NGO] for consultations in an attempt to search for long-term solutions. He also said it was now time to discuss the overall solution and "not just efforts to solve the day-to-day problems."

"We'll have to consider different approaches—how to discuss this at government-to-government level or how we can apply military measures—this all depends on our country's benefits," he said. "Strong measures like cutting diplomatic relations may not always be the right answer."

NGOs could play the role of mediator to help solve the problem, the Foreign Minister said, adding that all sides must thoroughly understand the situation otherwise Thailand's image in the international community would be tarnished.

There are 16 Karen refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border in Tak Province, mostly in the five districts of Tha Song Yang, Mae Ramat Mae Sot, Phop Phra and Umphang.

Dr. Krasae said the Karen National Union refugees, who sought shelter in Thailand, had the right to be protected on humanitarian grounds.

"The incident actually stemmed from their own conflict but it happened in our country. We have officially sent a protest letter to the Burmese government and would proceed with tougher measures in future," he said.

The temporary centre for the displaced Karens in Ban Mae La, approved by yesterday's meeting of Interior Ministry officials, Task Force 34, Border Patrol Police and Forestry officials, will gather 33,000 people from six camps in Ban Mae La, Kamao Lai Kho, Bae Klo, Sho Klo, Mae Salit and Huai Manok.

The same government source said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was not expected to play any role in the Karen refugee centre since Thailand did not want to internationalise the issue.

Dr. Krasae said it was unnecessary for Thailand to allow the UNHCR to get involved because this might prolong the problem and the centre would become a permanent one.

"What we have to think about is how to prevent the centre turning into a permanent place for refugees as we'd experienced in the past. Thailand prefers to resolve this problem by itself. It may cost us more money and effort but we can do it in order to prevent the interference of foreigners," he said.

However, he expressed the optimistic view that if the Thai authorities had measures to distinguish who is who in the centre, the establishment of the centre would make it easier and cheaper for Thailand as it could reduce the number of caretakers from the present camps.

Nation Viewed as 'Strategic' Oil Supply Source*BK0305094195 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 May 95 p 17*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand may well become a strategic source of oil supplies for neighbouring Burma, Cambodia and Laos in the future, according to Asian oil traders.

They also say Thailand could play a greater role, in place of Singapore, as a major supplier of oil products to Burma whose ports restrict large oil tankers of the kind normally used by Singaporean oil traders.

Executives of oil-trading companies in Southeast Asia foresee more oil products going to these countries by road from Thailand, as well as by small coastal tankers.

The traders envisage the volume of oil products going from Thailand to those countries to increase in line with stronger oil demands spurred by their expanding economies.

However, shipments by sea to Burma and Cambodia from Singapore are not expected to increase as much as onshore delivery from Thailand, because their ports are not accessible for large and standard tankers from Singapore.

At present, 2,000-3,000 barrels per day of oil products are shipped from Singapore to Burma. That constitutes roughly half of Burma's oil consumption.

Thailand's strategic position as an oil-supply source, coupled with buoyant growth in oil demand in the three countries, could prompt further refining expansion in Thailand, said Paul Adams, general manager of Mobil Sales and Supply Corp (Asia-Pacific), an affiliate of US-based Mobil Corp.

He said Thailand could become a key source of oil supplies for those countries in the next 10-15 years.

Major oil companies such as Shell, Caltex and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) have used Thailand, where they have extensive logistic bases, as a springboard for expanding oil-marketing activities, particularly on the retail front, to Burma, Cambodia and Laos.

Official Details Plans for Industrial Estates

BK0205122495 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
2 May 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Somchet Thinnaphong, governor of the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT), says the IEAT Committee chaired by Manat Suksaman, director general of the Industrial Works Department, has been working on a project to set up 54 industrial estates covering a total area of 78,000 rai [2.5 rai equals 1 acre] in 41 provinces between this year and 1999. It is anticipated that no less than 1,800 factories will be set up with a total investment of more than 900 billion baht and new jobs for more than 1 million people.

Somchet said: "Under the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan, there will be nine Integrated Industrial Estates (Complex) in different parts of the country, each covering an area of more than 6,000 rai to house petrochemical, steel, and paper industries. Meanwhile, each regional industrial estate will cover an area of 100-5,000 rai and a medium-size estate will cover an area of 500-1,000 rai. A small estate has an area of 20-500 rai. There are also other special types of industrial estates such as the science park and technopolis and data processing zone."

It is reported that new industrial estates will be built in Phichit, Nakhon Sawan, Phitsanulok, Chiang Rai, Phayao, Lampang, Chiang Mai, and Phrae Provinces in the northern region; Udon Thani, Khon Kaen, Nong Khai, Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, and Buriram Provinces in the northeastern region; Chon Buri Province in the eastern region; Nakhon Nayok, Suphan Buri, Chanthaburi, Rat Buri, Phet Buri, Kanchanaburi, and Prachuap Khirikhan Provinces in the central region; and Songkhla, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Chumphon, Krabi, Trang, Satun, Narathiwat, and Yala of the southern region.

Vietnam

Le Duc Anh Holds Talks With Kuwaiti Amir

BK0205134595 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 May 95

[Report by an unidentified station correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dear friends, this morning, 2 May, State President Le Duc Anh held talks with the amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. Also attending the talks was Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

President Le Duc Anh thanked the Kuwaiti amir for giving him a very warm welcome and maintained that this was proof of the Kuwaiti people's high appreciation of the Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence and current national reconstruction cause.

President Le Duc Anh briefed the amir on Vietnam's socioeconomic situation. The amir welcomed President Le Duc Anh's official visit and voiced his support for Vietnam's socioeconomic development program and foreign policy of diversification and multilateralization. President Le Duc Anh and the amir exchanged views on measures to further promote bilateral cooperation in many fields. President Le Duc Anh invited the amir to pay an official visit to Vietnam. The amir accepted the invitation with pleasure and expressed his desire to visit Vietnam, a nation known for its many arduous struggles against much stronger enemies to safeguard national independence and liberty and also for the success of its current economic development policy. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, President Le Duc Anh and his wife will visit a number of economic and cultural establishments in Kuwait's capital city this afternoon.

Relations, Cooperation With Kuwait Reviewed

BK0205103895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 2 May 95

[Unattributed "essay"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted on introduction to Kuwait] Although they live far away, the Kuwaiti people maintained deep sentiments and sympathy for the Vietnamese people in our struggle for national independence. In 1976, one year after the Vietnam war ended, Kuwait proposed that the Nonaligned countries set up a fund to help Vietnam rebuild. Various water conservancy projects in Vietnam—such as the Dau Tien, Van Binh, and A Dun Pa projects—were built with financial assistance from Kuwait, with a total capital of tens of millions of U.S. dollars.

Recently, Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah decided to write off all of Vietnam's debts to Kuwait, while the state banks of Kuwait and other countries have made contributions to help Vietnam pay its debts to the International Monetary Fund.

The fine relations between the two countries were strengthened by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh's visit to Kuwait in October 1993 and by Kuwaiti Prince Fahd al-Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah's visit to Vietnam in January 1995. State President Le Duc Anh's current visit to Kuwait will further strengthen the fine relations between the two nations.

Economic Ties With European Union Discussed

*BK0105152795 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT
1 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 29—A frame agreement on economic, industrial, scientific and cultural cooperation between Vietnam and the European Union is scheduled to ink in May. Also next month, an Embassy of the European High Commission will be opened in Hanoi.

Under the above-said agreement, European Investment Bank, branches of European financial organizations are allowed to operate in Vietnam.

Apart from its considerable humanitarian assistance under the reintegration of Vietnamese returnees programme with total fund of [U.S. dollars] USD 120 million implemented in 30 months, EU economic ties with Vietnam over the past years were limited. European investors hesitated to enter into Vietnamese market and the bilateral trade ties saw slow progress.

Recently, EU policy-makers have shifted their attention to cooperation with Vietnam, which resulted in the increasing promotion of diplomatic and economic relations between several EU member countries and Vietnam. Prime Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt and his entourage including a number senior officials and businessmen paid an official friendship visit to Vietnam in April, 1994. Also last year, France granted Vietnam an aid worth [French franc] FrF 425 million, an increase of nearly two folds compared with 1993. During a visit to Vietnam November last year, French Financial Minister Alain Juppe assured party General Secretary Do Muoi that France would give priority to Vietnam to boost cooperative ties between the two countries.

Investors from France, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Britain began to raise investment capital in Vietnam. British firms alone have 18 investment projects with a total fund of [U.S. dollars] USD 375 million afoot at present. Moreover, they have a long list of other investment projects with combined capital of USD 3.5 billion waiting for approval. In a meeting with Vietnamese leaders last January, British Financial Minister Kenneth Clarke said that as a world great financial centre, London could help Vietnam to develop its security market.

Vo Van Kiet Speaks at Ba Ria Power Plant

*BK0105154195 Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT
1 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 1—A ceremony was held at the Ba Ria Power Plant in the southern

province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau this afternoon to officially inaugurate the pipeline bringing gas from Bach Ho (White Tiger) Oil Field offshore south Vietnam to the plant.

The inauguration ceremony was attended among others by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and state Vice-President Nguyen Thi Binh.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister spoke highly of the cooperation provided by South Korea and other countries to Vietnam in this project, which in his words, was of extremely important significance to the country's current industrialization and modernization.

The about 200-km line has a design capacity of one million cubic metres/day. Investment capital reached [U.S. dollars] USD nearly 100 million.

The gas from the pipeline has been used since April 26 to fuel the four turbo-generator Ba Ria Power Plant, the first of its kind in Vietnam to use associated gas. With a daily consumption of 800,000 cubic metres of gas, the plant can generate 2.4 million kw/day, saving USD 22,000 compared with previous time when the generators were run by diesel.

Three of the four turbo-generators have capacity of 37 MWH each, and the rest, 33 MWH.

The plant is expected to put two turbo-generators more into operation in the time to come.

Price Regulating Department Established

*BK0305084895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in
Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister recently issued an order establishing a department within the Price Commission to manage a price regulating fund. The department is to assist the Price Commission chairman with management duties relating to the price regulating fund.

The Price Commission chairman is responsible for determining the duties of the Price Regulating Fund Management Department. The Price Commission chairman, cabinet ministers, ministerial level leaders, heads of other government agencies, and people's committee chairmen of provinces and centrally-governed cities are responsible for carrying out the decision.

***Deputy Commander Liem on Communications Security**

*952E0072A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese 6 Mar 95 p 2*

[Interview with Senior Colonel Ho Tri Liem, deputy commander and chief of staff of the Signal Corps, by Pham Minh Chau; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Chau] Sir, as the person in charge of guiding the training of the signal and liaison

troops today, what are your views on the need to incorporate combat experiences in training?

[Liem] Incorporating combat experiences in training is a requirement and one of the guiding viewpoints on training of the chief of the General Staff. Because of this, we are carrying out this work seriously and looking for ways to implement things effectively. Both I and the commander of the Signal Corps feel that the experiences in maintaining signal communications during the resistance against the United States, including both the successes and the failures, are equally valuable if viewed from the perspective of transmitting the lessons to the next generation in order to continue developing and using the good aspects and to avoid repeating the mistakes and shortcomings of the past. Troop training during peacetime can only simulate the actual situation during combat, and because of this, the lessons learned in combat must continue to be reviewed so that things are as accurate as possible. Only then can the lessons be included in the training in an effective manner. At the same time, a number of cadres and soldiers think that warfare is now more modern and that signal equipment has developed with very high technology. Because of this, they think that past experiences are no longer suitable. We must overcome such thinking. The commander of the Signal Corps has harshly criticized this view and educated the troops. We have affirmed that regardless of how modern the equipment is, it must still be used by people. Because of this, the experiences in making wise and creative use of the various types of signal equipment with a spirit of bravery and a spirit of overcoming every difficulty in order to maintain communications in the resistance against the United States will always be valuable lessons that can be used both today and in the future.

[Chau] Would you summarize the major lessons on the means used to maintain communications during the resistance against the United States?

[Liem] This means reviewing the war fought by our signal and liaison troops, so it is difficult to discuss this fully. I would like to mention the things that the Signal Corps is now including in the training. Based on the combat practices, we feel that the means used to maintain signal and liaison in combat must be coordinated very closely. No means must be slighted. For example, simple communications using telegraph and military postal communications, including runners, must be practiced. In many past battles, thanks to having simple communications, we were able to remain in constant communication with commanders, and that contributed to winning the battle. Training in simple signal communications means is not provided just to signal troops. This is one of the subjects that is taught to all the cadres and soldiers in integrated branches. However, training to maintain communications using wireless equipment is still the main focus. Experience in combat has shown that the troops must be trained so that they master the techniques, which will enable them to make creative use

of the equipment in combat. Here, I want to talk about the close coordination between technology and tactics in organizing signal communications. We have a wealth of experience that is still of value in training the troops. Our troops employed many means to encrypt signals in order to maintain secrecy. Because of that, even though the enemy had various types of modern electronic reconnaissance equipment, they could not locate us. Or we were able to fool them using bogus signals. Communications must be accurate, timely, safe, and secret. Because of this, the signal troops must be instilled with a concept of discipline and a lofty spirit of bravery and willingness to overcome the difficulties. Those lessons are just as important today. Let me talk about the North-South signal line in war. The signal troops went through jungle, forded streams, and climbed mountains in order to occupy the high points and install relay stations. At each station, they had to look after their own lives and, at the same time, bring in enough gasoline to operate the engines and generate electricity to operate the signal equipment. Without will power and ingenuity, they could not have completed the tasks. With landline communications to ensure operations, in the battles, many cadres and soldiers set examples in heroism and ingenuity in maintaining the signal landlines. There is also much experience in maintaining landline communications, such as the lessons in selecting lines, the lessons in camouflaging and protecting the landlines, and the lessons in connecting the signal lines in combat to maintain speed and safety. In particular, in this, there is also the theme of mass agitation, which is aimed at obtaining the help of the people and militia forces in the localities through which the landlines run.

All of the above lessons and experiences are very valuable, but the major lesson, which remains a lesson for future generations, is the lesson having to do with the signal cadres and troops maintaining discipline and adhering to the rules and regulations in performing their tasks, which was decisive in our victory. The more modern the equipment, the greater the need to maintain discipline. In electronic warfare, the signal troops must have strong political capabilities and a lofty concept of discipline if they are to complete their tasks.

[Chau] Can you tell us what has been achieved in incorporating the combat experiences in training today's troops?

[Liem] It can be said that the Signal Corps has a concept in incorporating the combat experiences in troop training, particularly in training the command cadres and the technical cadres of the corps. We have reviewed and edited many documents on maintaining signal communications to serve guiding and maintaining signal communications in operations and combat and included this is the troop training program. As for the lessons in operating the signal equipment, the ingenuity of the technical cadres must be exploited in order to make the most effective use possible of the equipment and make even more effective use of the equipment than the countries that produced the equipment. This is one of the valuable lessons of our signal

troops in the resistance against the United States. As for maintaining signal safety and secrecy, we have gained experience concerning the rules and regulations in using signal means in order to supplement recent developments. At the same time, we are teaching our troops that they must adhere strictly to the stipulations. In order to familiarize the troops with and enable them to make good use of the experiences in combat, we regularly discuss protecting signal communications so that the troops can deal with this in training, particularly during maneuvers.

However, in recent years, incorporating the combat experiences in training has been carried on effectively only at the schools and at the cadre training sessions. As

for soldiers and technical personnel, little progress has been made and little has been achieved in incorporating combat experiences in training. In particular, the concept of a number of detachment cadres and soldiers concerning incorporating combat experiences in training is very limited. Thus, for training in 1995, we are making preparations to continue renovating the training contents and methods in order to improve quality even more. The target is to raise the standards of the signal and liaison troops concerning political awareness, discipline, and tactics in order to maintain signal communications to support providing guidance in all situations.

[Chau] Thank you.

Australia

Canberra Rejects Trade Embargo on Iran

LD0205142695 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
1100 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia says it will not follow the United States in imposing a trade ban on Iran.

Graeme Dobell reports from Canberra that the Australian Government says there is no evidence on the public record to show that Iran has sponsored terrorism.

[Dobell] Despite President's Clinton's announcement that he will ban U.S. trade with Iran because it's a paymaster for terrorists, Australia says it will not review the trade relationship.

A spokeswoman for the foreign minister, Gareth Evans, said Australia did not believe that trade embargoes would help to prevent Iran from getting weapons of mass destruction; nor was there public evidence linking Iran directly to acts of terrorism. The spokeswoman said there was no action being taken against Iran at the United Nations.

Iran is Australia's biggest market in the Middle East, buying wheat, meat, and coal worth nearly 400 million U.S. dollars. The spokeswoman for the foreign minister said the trade relationship gave Australia the chance to talk to Iran about issue such as human rights, the Middle East peace process and Iran's alleged support for terrorism.

Evans Declines To Clarify SRV 'Defense Ties'

BK2804105295 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, has declined to say specifically whether Australia will resume defense ties with Vietnam. The Australian Defense Department has confirmed that a uniformed officer of the Vietnamese Army visited Canberra last November. The visit of the colonel was paid for by Australia's Foreign Affairs Department and described as a private visit. During the trip, the colonel attended a forum on regional security sponsored by the Australian National University, and is understood to have met informally with Defense Department officials.

Senator Evans, speaking after his address to the United Nations Global Cultural Diversity Conference in Sydney, said Australia is renewing its ties with Vietnam, but the extent of the relationship is still to be determined:

[Begin Evans recording] You have a society in transition—as I say, many in the region—and I think our relationship with Vietnam and our contribution to that transition process has been very helpful for both countries. [end recording]

MOU on Defense Cooperation Signed With Italy

BK2804140995 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Italy and Australia have signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] on defense

material and cooperation and logistic support. The signing took place in Rome between Australia's defense minister, Robert Ray, his Italian counterpart, General (Dominico Cochione). Senator Ray says the signing formalizes a joint resolve between Australia and Italy to expand existing defense ties. He says under the agreement Australia companies will benefit full contact with their Italian counterparts in the form of shared technical development and market information.

Earlier, the defense minister forecast the big increase in the purchase of Israeli military technology by Australia. Speaking at the end of the tour of Israel, Sen. Ray predicted that Israel could win up to 10 Australian contracts in areas such as the upgrading and integration of radar and combat systems.

South African Delegation Notes Offers of Aid

MB2904161795 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English
0600 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The delegation accompanying Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on his visit to Australia says several leaders in business, education, and politics have offered to help South Africa. A spokesman for the delegation said Australian Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe had offered assistance in housing projects and that the Australian Higher Education Institution was ready to start bilateral research and exchange programs. Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans is expected to visit South Africa next month to discuss relations between the two countries.

New Zealand

'Concerns' Registered Over Indonesian Minister

BK0105062295 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The New Zealand Government says it has registered its concerns with the Indonesian Government over the recent actions of an Indonesian cabinet minister.

Indonesia's tourism minister, Joop Ave, left Auckland suddenly by private jet a week ago after a hotel employee told police he had been indecently assaulted. A man in his early twenties said Ave made sexual advances to him when he was called to his room.

In a statement, which did not mention an alleged assault, New Zealand's foreign minister, Don McKinnon, said it was a most regrettable business, which did not reflect well on the minister. He said any further investigations or actions were a matter for police to determine and he was satisfied the matter had been properly handled.

Butrus-Ghali Seeks Peacekeepers for FRY

LD0105091995 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English
0800 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is calling on New Zealand

to maintain a contingent of troops in the former Yugoslavia. Dr. Butrus-Ghali is currently in New Zealand and today met Prime Minister Jim Bolger for what has been described as full and open discussions. Dr. Butrus-Ghali said New Zealand's presence in the former Yugoslavia [FRY] is a sign of international solidarity:

[Begin Butrus-Ghali recording] The participation of, let us say, 250 peacekeepers from New Zealand have importance, a military importance, with it having political importance, which is even greater. It had the symbolic value to show the solidarity of all the members of the family of nations. [end recording]

Maori Group Threatens 'Campaign of Destruction'

LD0305094795 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0800 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A small group of Maori activists are threatening to blow up dams and burn down forests if their demands for sovereignty are not met.

A group of prominent activists including Tame Iwhi, Mike Smith, Nikou Tangaroa, and Annette Sykes issued their threat at a press conference across the road from the Asian Development Bank conference in Auckland. Annette Sykes says if the rights of Maori as indigenous people are not recognized then her group will start a campaign of destruction.

[Begin Sykes recording] Unless they start making changes then those types of actions for me are conceivable and it's really up to the government itself to put in

place a safety valve which recognizes the rights of the treaty and more than lip service in that regard. [end recording]

Annette Sykes says Maoris have a national and international status and if it continues to be ignored then terrorism and sabotage will happen.

Papua New Guinea

Thousands Flee Ethnic Violence in Kimbe

LD0305090495 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0800 GMT 3 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of people have fled the capital of Papua New Guinea's West New Britain Province, Kimbe, in the wake of ethnic violence. The town is now virtually deserted.

Provincial police commander, Chief Inspector Patrick Seme says there have been continuous exchanges of gunfire throughout the town since last night. Women and children unable to flee have packed into the police station as they fear for their lives. The fighting started when Kombe tribesmen retaliated against constant harassment and ambushes by men of the Talasea tribe. Truckloads of armed Kombe tribesmen poured into the town and attacked the Talaseas. The hail of gunfire sent thousands of terrified citizens fleeing in panic.

The number of casualties is not known.

A riot squad was expected to arrive from the neighboring East New Britain Province to help local police put down the violence.

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